Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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ROBBERY VICTIM LIVING IN FEAR

By David Cosgrove

A GRANDFATHER was pushed to the floor and had a knife held against his throat in a terrifying robbery which has left him afraid to stay at home.

The frightening attack on Dave Perry in his bungalow in Oldbury saw the robbers steal with more than £5,000 of valuables and family heirlooms.

The 61-year-old was pushed to the ground in his kitchen and the house was ransacked while a blade was held up to him.

Since the incident, retired construction worker and HGV driver Mr Perry has only spent one night at home, saying he has struggled to sleep and it has left him 'unnerved'.

"I haven't really slept since the incident," he said. "It's really unnerved me a lot.

"I've never been like this before – even when I've been going to the bathroom I'm peeping around."

Dave Perry of Oldbury

Mr Perry – who already had a fractured hip before the ordeal – had let his eight-year-old Staffordshire Terrier Oscar back into his house when the robbers struck.

They broke in through the back door and one pinned him to the floor while holding a knife, with the other looting his home.

The pair stole jewellery, his wallet, a mobile phone, tablet computer and drill – totalling between £5,000 and £6,000 according to Mr Perry.

"He just pushed me over in the kitchen," Mr Perry said.

"He pushed me backwards, put the blade against my throat and robbed me.

"I just said 'take what you want' and I was trying to stay calm.

"The guy with the knife was shouting instructions to the other guy to just take anything."

Among the items stolen were gold rings which had been passed down to Mr Perry from his granddad through his dad.

"I said to him that my dad had given that to me and asked if I could keep it. But he just said 'get that ring off'."

According to Mr Perry, one of the robbers was wearing a blue hoodie with a scarf covering his face, black gloves and black tracksuit bottoms, while the other was wearing a black hat, a balaclava and black tracksuit bottoms.

Anyone with details should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

WHERE THE STREET HAS TWO NAMES...

Foley Street or Foley Road? Conservative member Heather Nightingale next to one of the conflicting signs

IS it Foley Road or Foley Street? That's the question, and it is one that may have a few postmen scratching their heads.

The puzzling signs are directly opposite each other on a narrow Wednesbury street – which is actually Foley Street.

The signs have recently been replaced and it seems council workers failed to notice the difference between the wording on them.

And it's not just the names of the road that are wrong – the postcode on the incorrect sign, which reads W10 rather than WS10, puts the street in west London.

The gaffe was spotted by Terry Allen, who lives on Walsall Road in Wednesbury.

He said: "They changed the sign a couple of weeks ago and I walked past it and thought 'this can't be right'. It is directly opposite one that says Foley Street.

"Apparently if you stand on the Wood Green Road or Walsall Street you are in Kensington or Chelsea and to the left you are in Wednesbury.

The signs that reads Foley Street

"I don't know how so many mistakes could have been made because someone must have ordered one and them someone else has accepted it when it has arrived.

"Then the sign guys would have taken down a Foley Street sign and replaced it with a Foley Road one."

Despite the comical nature of the error, Mr Allen believes the mix up could cause problems.

He said: "If you're coming from junction nine (of the M6) towards Wednesbury you're going to see Foley Road, and if you're looking for Foley Street you are going to think it must be close."

Heather Knightingale, who stood as a Tory candidate for the Wednesbury North ward this year, said she was amazed by the error.

She said: "It is another waste of taxpayers' money, they are going to have to do it again.

"It's a shame nobody thought to check it before they put it in, especially as it was directly opposite the other one."

No one was available from Sandwell Council for comment.

HONOUR

Hall to be named after victim Joel

TUNISIA terror attack victim Joel Richards will be honoured in his home town with a sports hall named after him.

The 19-year-old, who lived in Wednesbury, died with his uncle Adrian Evans and grandfather Patrick Evans at the beach resort of Sousse on June 26.

Sandwell Council say the sports centre is to bear his name when it opens at the new £8.1million leisure centre complex in Wednesbury. Saddlers fan Joel, a former pupil of Stuart Bathurst and Wood Green schools, was a keen sportsman.

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CEREMONY

Timely unveiling as clock returns

A LANDMARK clock will return to its original home in the Black Country later this month after an absence of more than 40 years.

The four-sided structure is being brought back to Bearwood, where it has not been seen since the early 1970s. It will be placed on the junction of Bearwood Road and Adkins Lane, not far from its original position outside the Kings Head pub.

An unveiling ceremony will be held on October 24 at 10am.

MARATHON

Workers limber up for big Brum run

NINE workers from the West Brom Building Society are limbering up to take part in the 2015 Morrisons Great Birmingham Run Business Challenge.

The group, all from the society's headquarters in West Bromwich, aim to complete the 13.1 mile half marathon course this Sunday. They will be running under the banner of Team WB and raising money for the society's nominated charity, Edward's Trust, which supports children and families facing loss and surviving bereavement.

To sponsor the team, visit: www.justgiving.com/team-WB. To enter the run, go to: www.greatrun.org/Birmingham

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LEPRECHAUN TO LEG IT FOR LUCK

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Passer-by spots dead body in canal

Emergency crews at the scene

THE body of a man was pulled from a Black Country canal after being seen by a passer-by.

The grim discovery was made in Albion Road, West Bromwich.

West Midlands Police said the man's death was not being treated as suspicious.

A police cordon was put up as scenes of crime officers carried out an investigation.

Experts remained at the scene as the body was recovered.

The area remained sealed off for much of the day as forensics teams continued their investigations. Davinder Singh was in the area at the time.

He said: "I was trying to go to the library but they told me I couldn't get across the road.

"Someone must have been walking past and saw the body."

It comes just weeks after a man's body was pulled from a canal in Walsall.

Police were called to Rushall Canal, off Sutton Road, on September 6 near to the Longhorn pub and the Co-operative food shop at the back of Walsall Arboretum. That death was also not treated as suspicious.

West Midlands Ambulance Service sent two ambulances, a paramedic area support officer and Hazardous Area Response Team paramedics following the 999 call in the hope that the man could be saved but it quickly became clear that he was already dead.

Spokeswoman Claire Brown said: "The trust's HART paramedics donned water rescue gear to help pull the man from the water. Sadly it quickly became apparent that nothing could be done to save the man and he was confirmed dead on scene."

Watson: I won't say sorry on Brittan claim

DEFIANT Tom Watson sparked fury in the Commons after refusing to apologise for allegations against the late Leon Brittan – amid cries of 'shame' and 'disgrace'.

Prime Minister David Cameron was said to be 'incensed' by the West Bromwich MP's statement late after earlier saying that he should 'examine his conscience about whether he has said enough so far'.

Mr Watson said all politicians had 'presided over a state of affairs where children have been abused and then ignored, dismissed and then disdained – if anyone deserves an apology it is them'.

The deputy Labour leader was met with loud cries of 'shame' from the Tory benches, which were provoked by Tory grandee Sir Nicholas Soames demanding an apology to Lord Brittan's family in a point of order.

Mr Watson said: "I understand MPs feel aggrieved Leon Brittan was interviewed by the police and they are angry with my use of language but when someone is accused of multiple sexual crimes by numerous completely unrelated sources the police have a duty to investigate, no matter who it is.

Famous

"It is not for me to judge the validity of these claims but I believe I was right to demand the guidelines were adhered to. Many victims have been too terrified to speak out for too long. It's not all over just because a few famous people have gone to prison. It hasn't all got out of hand just because people in high places are scared. The survivors of child abuse have been belittled and ridiculed for too long. That's the real scandal."

Earlier, Mr Cameron said Mr Watson 'has a lot of questions to answer' over his comments about former Conservative minister Lord Brittan, whose brother had called for an apology.

Mr Watson insisted it was his duty to pass on evidence from those claiming to have been abused to the authorities. Sir Nicholas said Mr Watson should: "Apologise for the way in which he has so vilely traduced the late Lord Brittan."

He dismissed Mr Watson's comments as 'not the apology I was looking for'.

Loopy leprechaun legging it with luck

Postman Tony Meehan 'The Loopy Leprechaun' with Magicus staff Sharon Harris and Emma-Lea Garmston

A POSTMAN is hoping he has the luck of the Irish when he tackles three marathons for charity – dressed as a leprechaun.

Tony Meehan is running for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of his brother, Michael, who died from cancer in 2011, aged 58.

Mr Meehan from Wednesbury was born in Dublin and will be running in his loopy leprechaun outfit to honour his Irish roots.

He has already completed the Cardiff Half Marathon on October 4, but still has the Birmingham Half Marathon this Sunday and Dublin Full Marathon on Monday, October 26 to complete.

"My fundraising campaign has taken me on such a touching journey," Mr Meehan said.

Inspirational

"I run in memory of my brother who was one of the bravest people I knew, as he fought cancer on and off for 15 years.

"But you meet so many others who are inspirational too. Macmillan is a great charity and the work they do is extremely important,.

"They do a wonderful job and any money that will help create more Macmillan nurses and funding opportunities will be fantastic," he added.

Salon staff at Magicuts hairdressers in Hobs Road, Wednesbury have begun a fundraising campaign to support Mr Meehan.

Visit www.justgiving.com/tonymeehan.

Cost of hoax fire calls in summer up to £11,000

HOAX calls to the region's fire service over the school summer holiday break in the Black Country cost the taxpayer more than £11,000 – with the number of false alarms up from last year.

West Midlands Fire Service received 41 hoax calls in Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall this summer, with 26 attended by crews, costing an estimated £428 per hour.

There was also a rise in the calls to West Midlands Ambulance Service during the period – July 24 to August 31 – with the team dealing with 70.

West Midlands Police, however, saw a drop in hoax and abandoned calls. The emergency services have hit out at the rise in calls, saying they disrupt life-saving services.

The figures were released under a Freedom of Information Act.

For hoax calls to the fire service, Walsall had the most pranksters, with 14 calls and six attended. In Wolverhampton, seven of nine hoaxes were attended, with eight out of 10 attended in Sandwell, and five of eight attended in Dudley.

Last year's summer break saw crews receive 38 hoax calls in the Black Country and 39 in 2013.

Spokesman Neil Spencer said: "Hoax callers who are caught by the police can be fined and jailed. They put the lives of our fire crews and members of the public at risk."

West Midlands Ambulance Service received 70 calls, up by 12 from last year. But this was down from 140 in 2013.

Bogus plumber stole from OAP

A THIEF posing as a plumber convinced a 96-year-old woman he was investigating a water leak – before rummaging through her bedroom and stealing a significant amount of cash and jewellery.

The callous crook splashed water on the bathroom ceiling to support his burst pipe story, and while the pensioner ate lunch he rifled through her belongings.

The theft happened on the Charlemont Farm estate in West Bromwich on October 7.

Sandwell Police Chief Inspector Sean Phillips, said: "It's hard to imagine someone could be so cruel as to trick a 96-year-old woman and rummage through her bedroom while she innocently sat downstairs eating lunch. It is truly despicable."

Man accused of rape in hospital

A MAN has been charged with raping and assaulting a staff member at Birmingham' s City hospital.

Liam McCarthy, of Phoenix Street, West Bromwich, appeared at Birmingham Magistrates' and was referred to the city's cown court on November 19.

Tributes to soldier as killer given sentence

THE family of a soldier killed by a disqualified driver in the Black Country have paid a heartfelt tribute to the 'amazing, loving young man'.

Adam Hancox, aged 26, died instantly after Kasim Mohammed ploughed through a red light and smashed into the side of his car.

Mohammed, of Bearwood Road, Smethwick was jailed for 10 years at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Tuesday after pleading guilty to causing death by dangerous driving. He will be disqualified from driving for seven years following his release and will have to take an extended test.

In a statement Mr Hancox's family said: "No words can ever express our sadness and overwhelming grief since Adam was tragically and needlessly taken from us. Adam was an amazing, loving young man with so much to live for.

"His untimely death has left a massive hole in our lives that will never be filled."

Mr Hancox served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at the Army Training Centre in Pirbright. He received a funeral with full military honours.

Mohammed, 27, who had been out drinking the night before the crash on November 23 last year, drove straight through a red light at an estimated 69mph and into the side of Mr Hancox's Ford Ka on the A4123 Wolverhampton Road between Bleakhouse Road and Clent Road in Oldbury.

Mohammed fled and then twice refused to provide a specimen of breath.

Store raiders in threats to staff

STAFF were threatened by three men – one armed with a metal bar – who raided a supermarket in Oldbury.

Robbers burst into Morrisons in Pottery Road and demanded cash from terrified workers just before 9apm last Wednesday.

Police said one of the men was armed with a metal bar and the crooks got away with an unknown amount of cash. People were in the store shopping at the time.

No-one is believed to have been hurt.

Police have launched an investigation following the raid and have appealed for anyone with information to contact them.

Anyone with information should call police on 101.

DIY cable work is blamed for blaze

A FIRE broke out in a Darlaston flat when a botched repair on an electricity cable caught alight. Fire crews were called to a second floor flat in Wolverhampton Street at around midday on Sunday.

£350m super hospital taking shape

Impression of the new super hospital

IT is the most realistic image yet of how Sandwell's new £350 million super hospital will look. Covered by greenery and surrounded by water, this is the vision for the Midland Metropolitan Hospital that will take shape in Smethwick over the next three years.

Preparations for construction are under way after the new glass panelled hospital – which will feature 670 beds and 150 operating theatres – was approved by council bosses last month.

Work is expected to begin in Grove Lane in January with the new hospital due to be up and running by autumn 2018.

Bosses from the Sandwell and Birmingham NHS Hospitals Trust due to sign the contracts with The Hospital Company in December before the first sod is cut in January.

The artists' impressions shows how the huge hospital with a stunning glass exterior will tower into the sky. There is a clear eco-friendly emphasis to the make-up of the hospital, with trees and shrubbery decorating it at every level. A spacious waterside walkway for patients and visitors is also visible, while the image offers a glimpse into how patients and visitors will park – beneath the building itself. There will be 1,700 spaces available.

The creation of the Midland Metropolitan Hospital will bring emergency and healthcare services in Sandwell onto one location. The modern hospital features a glass roof, floating sculptures, futuristic lighting and gardens.

When plans were approved Trust chief executive Toby Lewis said it was a 'pivotal moment'.

£500,000 a year cost to run rehab centre

CASH-STRAPPED Sandwell Council is to pay more than £500,000 after running a drug and alcohol rehab centre in West Bromwich for just a year.

After taking over provision of public health services from the NHS back in 2013, the council became tenants in Metro Court.

The council wanted to move the services to a new location but was unable to do so for 12 months, running the service out of the building from July 2013 to June 2014.

However, its time in Metro Court was a costly one – with a report to the authority's cabinet revealing the council owes NHS Property Services £523,386.34 for a year of occupation.

NHS Property Services said the council was its tenant for the year and the £500,000 fee covered operating costs. Deputy leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "We were over a barrel really and we had to pay.

"I think the NHS were pouring money down the drain – this shows how much they were prepared to shell out.

"We would never normally enter into a lease at that rate but we had to. It's not the council taxpayer who will foot the bill though, as it comes from money we have as part of the public health transfer."

Dispute

The same services have now been moved to the Alberta Building in Oldbury Road, Smethwick. Councillor Eling said: "I would say that the services are now in a much better building that's far more cost effective."

A cabinet report says the authority is 'unable to dispute the amount of £523,386.34'. It suggests stumping up that fee in order to reduce the risk of further costs down the line.

The report says: "Legal advice supports that payment of the undisputed figure £523,386.34, which took account of estimated legal costs, would reduce the risk of further litigation, interest and legal costs."

An NHS Property Services spokesman said: "We inherited this building from the former Sandwell Primary Care Trust. Drug and alcohol services transferred from the former PCT to Sandwell Council as part of the Public Health transfer of services.

"This meant that the council-run service became our tenants and we operated in the usual way to charge only for the recovery of operating costs – we do not make a profit."

Jolly's getting batter all the time

Front, Sandwell Chronicle sales representative Chris Smith presents Gov Heer with the Chronicle award for Sandwell's best Fish & Chip shop at Jolly's in Dudley Port, joined by regular customer Lynne Nock

SANDWELL Chronicle readers have chosen their chip shop of the year – Jolly's Finest Fish and Chips in Dudley Port, Tipton.

Mick Heer first took on the business in 2012 and has been keeping his customers satisfied ever since.

He has given the shop a full refurbishment, and with his son Gov, they pride themselves in showing passion for what they do, taking pride in building the business to where it is today.

Mick believes in top quality fish and chips and said: "My customers know the drive and passion I have and the standards I adhere to. Only the best will do for my customers as they are number one to me.

"For those of you who haven't tried Jolly's yet come and try our food for yourself and see why we have been voted No 1.

"We also do gluten-free night every Monday 5pm till 9pm."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Accident death man is named

A MAN who died a week after being hit by car on a busy route in West Bromwich has been named as Radoslaw Konisiewicz, aged 27, from Handsworth.

The accident happened on September 27 around 5.30am on the Expressway.

A silver Jaguar car hit Mr Konisiewicz, according to police.

He suffered serious injuries and was taken Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. He died from his injuries on October 4.

Police are appealing for witnesses.

Boy is hurt after being hit by car

A NINE-year-old boy was left with serious head injuries after being hit by a car in Smethwick.

The boy was riding his electric scooter along Trafalgar Road where it meets Windmill Lane at around 3.45pm on Sunday when he was hit by a blue Audi A3.

He remains in a serious but stable condition in hospital.

The driver of the Audi – a woman aged 26 – has been helping officers with their inquiries.

Witnesses can call the Collision Investigation Unit on 101.

Councillor in call to clean up signs

A COUNCILLOR in Darlaston is calling on Walsall Council to clean up 'grotty' street signs in the town.

Darlaston South Councillor Doug James said he also wanted to put pressure on owners of dirty billboards and shop fronts to keep them clean.

He is urging people to get in touch if they spot any grotty signage in the town.

Councillor James said: "Let's work together and tidy up our towns and, let's take pride in our streets."

Activities as part of safety campaign

THE Safer 6 campaign team will be in Oldbury Civic Square next week.

The team will be in attendance from 10am to noon on Tuesday, October 20.

Activities and services will include a fire engine, chip pan fire demonstration, police car, Sandwell Crime Prevention Panel bus – with community safety advice and freebies, and Neighbourhood Watch stall.

More information on the campaign is available at www.sandwell.gov.uk/safer6

Nursery approved

A FORMER council housing office in Smethwick will be turned into a children's nursery, creating new jobs.

Sandwell Council has approved the plans for the old Bearwood neighbourhood office on Reginald Road.

The new day nursery will employ 12 part-time and full-time workers.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

DRAMATIC puzzles of our time: Consider the grand staircase at Downton Abbey. Consider Lady Mary, as played by Michelle Dockery. Which is the more wooden?

EXPANDING the tortured issue of why pyjamas have pockets, a lady writes: "I bought myself a lovely pair of trousers and found a small zipped pocket in the waistband. I asked my granddaughter if she'd ever seen anything so daft because you couldn't keep much money in in. She replied, 'Nan, it's a condom pocket.' I am 83 and a little shocked."

MY latest bill from BT is £174.54 for the quarter, compared with £129.98 last summer, and every time it rains, the phone line goes dead. It was better than this in the 1950s, wasn't it?.

A READER asks: "Is it safer to smoke inside a VW than to stand behind one when its engine is running?

A READER says she's thrilled at my suggestion of awarding an exclamation mark to a Hampshire military town, making it Middle Wallop! She was stationed there with the Army in the 1970s and recalls: "As there were 40 women and 4,000 men, we often heard an exclamation."

JUST supposing you had voted for Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader, seen his victory on September 12 and then gone on a long holiday. Away from it all, you'd have been jubilant at helping to elect a potential prime minister who would scrap Trident, abolish tuition fees, nationalise the energy industry, quit the "capitalist" EU, refuse to kneel to the Queen and proudly wear the white poppy of pacifism on Remembrance Sunday. Then you come home to find all those things are either off the agenda or up for discussion. If Corbyn can move so far in less than a month, where will he be as the 2020 General Election looms? On the Tory benches, at this rate.

IT was, of course, very, very wrong for 60-somethings Peter Marsh and Gillian Green, having eaten some cherries, to leave a handful of discarded stones on the soil under a tree in Canterbury. They were caught by two council enforcement officers and slapped with a pair of £80 fixed-penalty fines. In the finest traditions of interrogation, the officials separated the couple in order to question them. So what would have happened if the pair had linked arms and refused to be separated? What level of force is considered appropriate against elderly pip-droppers who decline to be interviewed separately? At what stage do the officials send for armed back-up and start pepper-spraying or tasering them? Seriously, I'd like to know. I have an orange pip to dispose of.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

School bounces back to good form

LEADERS at a school which plunged into special measures last year say they are focusing on a bright future after being rated as good in all areas.

Rood End Primary School in Oldbury was given the lowest possible ranking of inadequate in 2014 after concerns were raised about teaching, pupil achievement and attendance.

But the school, in Rood End Road, has bounced back from the blow, returning to the good status it previously held. The report said teaching had improved 'considerably' since the last inspection and that the headteacher and senior leaders were 'determined and persistent in their drive to improve the school'.

Headteacher Barabara Carter said: "We are delighted with the report. It really reflects the hard work and commitment of our staff.

"Every teacher, whatever their level, has played a huge part, they are really committed to doing their best for the children.

"There is a determination to ensure they are all successful and make progress."

Just 12 months earlier Rood End entered special measures after inspectors found that children's standards in Key Stage 1 and 2 were 'consistently low' compared to the national average, while attendance was also below average.

Mrs Carter insisted the school had not altered its approach and was confident it was doing the right things.

She said the school was faced with challenges that many others are not, such as having children that speak 35 different languages and a high number of pupils with disabilities.

Knotweed killings were unforeseen says report

By Richard Guttridge

THE death of a woman, killed by her husband before he committed suicide over Japanese knotweed fears could not have been prevented, says a council report.

Sandwell Council launched an investigation following the deaths of Kenneth McRae and his wife Jane in Rowley Regis in 2013 to see whether support workers should have intervened beforehand.

However, the Safer Sandwell Partnership decided that no lessons could be learned from the incident and that there was no evidence to suggest there had previously been violence in the home on Bryan Budd Close.

The couple were found dead in July 2013 after Mr McRae's colleagues raised fears they had not heard from him. Lab technician Mr McRae, aged 52, was found on the first floor, his wrists and throat having been cut, and Mrs McRae was found in bed on the second floor with head injuries.

Perfume

An inquest last year ruled Mr McRae killed his wife before killing himself. It heard that Mrs McRae, 55, had been hit over the head with a perfume bottle found at the scene.

A suicide note left by Mr McRae revealed he had developed a 'growing madness' over Japanese knotweed, an invasive plant species which is notoriously difficult to get rid of, he claimed was creeping onto their property from a neighbouring golf course.

He was concerned it would make their house unsaleable in the future.

A Domestic Homicide Review carried out by Sandwell Council said council support services could not have foreseen the deaths.

It said: "The review found nothing to indicate that domestic abuse of any kind had taken place in the couple's relationship previously."

The report stated his concerns about Japanese knotweed 'did not explain his extreme action and no reason was found to blame any party or agency contacted about it'.

A Home Office panel judged the council's review as adequate.

Kenneth McRae and his wife Jane who were both found dead over Japanese knotweed fears

The McRaes' home in Rowley Regis

The back of the home adjoining Rowley Regis Golf Course

Warning is issued over impact of police cuts

SHUTTING 28 police stations 'is just the beginning', according to Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson in a stark warning about the impact of funding cuts.

Five police bases in the Dudley borough are among those at risk of the axe as part of the West Midlands Police cuts.

Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Kingswinford and Netherton will all be left without a police station if the plans go ahead. Tanhouse Centre in Great Barr is also due to shut.

Scrutinising the cost-cutting plan, Mr Jamieson said the force would need to consider 'very unattractive' options in the coming years as government cuts take hold.

Mr Jamieson, said: "This reduction is driven largely by reducing budgets which means reducing numbers of staff and therefore we need fewer places to put them.

"We are only half way through the changes that need to take place. These 28 are just the beginning. In years to come we will be looking even more at the building stock."

Shutting the bases will reduce the force's overall estate by 10 per cent – but a 45 percent reduction is targeted by 2020.

Bosses have revealed 68 buildings will go over the next five years saving around £9 million per year.

Speaking at a meeting of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board, Deputy Chief Constable Dave Thompson said there would be no impact on public safety as a result of the closures.

Uninsured driver in 'freeman' claim

AN uninsured driver who tried avoiding punishment by claiming he was a 'freeman of the land' has been jailed.

Mandeep Sandhu, aged 29, was pulled over by police in Birmingham Road, Smethwick after being spotted behind the wheel of a Vauxhall Astra police systems showed was insured to a woman.

When asked to confirm his details he told officers from West Midlands Police he was part of a 'freeman of the land' movement that stopped him talking to cops.

He refused to co-operate with Warley magistrates on October 1 and was jailed for 14 days for contemptt.

Sandhu, of Dudley Road East, Tividale, was also ordered to pay £330 in fines and costs and had six points added to his licence.

Josie's in town for imagination festival

BLACK Country star Joise Lawrence is returning to the West Midlands to make a festival appearance.

The actress, made a Freeman of the borough of Sandwell in 2011, will appear at the Festival of the Imagination tomorrow (Friday).

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Heathens desperate to keep club alive

THE Cradley Heathens speedway club supporters' trust has said they are desperate not to see the team die after its owners announced they were stepping down.

The Heathens have been plunged into crisis, with the outgoing bosses admitting they don't know whether the team's next fixture against King's Lynn will be its last.

Chairman Nigel Pearson and club partners Chris Van Straaten and Gary Patchett revived the club in 2010 after 15 years out of league speedway but have now announced they are bowing out due to personal circumstances and other work commitments.

But they have said they will do everything they can to find new owners and that folding the club would be a last resort.

Lifelong fan Spencer Billingham, of Dudley Wood, a member of the supporters' trust, admitted it was an uncertain time for the club. He said: "We are just coming to terms with what has happened like everyone else.

"We can only hope somebody can come in and take the club forward. We would all hate to see the club die."

Mr Pearson is a broadcaster with Sky Sports and talkSPORT while Mr Van Straaten owns Wolverhampton Wolves speedway club.

The Cradley Heathens have been thwarted by an on-going search for a permanent home after losing their home track in Dudley Wood two decades ago. This season the club has been riding at Birmingham's Perry Barr Stadium.

Call to get more women in politics

WOMEN at all levels of politics have come together to encourage more to get involved.

The event organised by the Sikh Network saw speakers share their views in the chamber of Sandwell Council.

The meeting heard there was a need to engage more women, particularly those from 'underrepresented' groups to participate in politics.

Saturday's event included speeches from Councillor Preet Kaur Gill, from Sandwell Council, Baroness Burt, the former MP for Solihull, and Neena Gill, Labour MEP for the West Midlands, as well as newly elected Yardley MP Jess Phillips and Suria Photay, who stood for the Conservatives in Wolverhampton South East.

£150k museum entrance unveiled

A NEW £150,000 entrance for pupils visiting the Black Country Living Museum has been unveiled. The Brook entrance has been created for the hundreds of schools visiting each year.

Shootings survivor Owen tells of ordeal

A TEENAGER from the Black Country who survived the Tunisia beach shootings in which his brother, uncle and grandfather were all killed has spoken for the first time of his ordeal.

Owen Richards, aged 16, from Wednesbury, was on a family holiday in June when Seifeddine Rezgui opened fire on tourists.

His brother Joel Richards, uncle Adrian Evans and grandfather Patrick Evans were among the 30 Britons who were killed.

The courageous student said: "When people moan about stuff, you think 'just shut up'. It makes you realise what's important."

Owen remains in contact with other survivors who he met in hospital in Tunisia.

Naomi Wearing, 18, from Blackburn and Lucy Pettit, 23, from Slough, say he has helped them through continuing hospital treatment back in the UK, keeping in touch and offering encouragement, helping them in their recovery.

Owen, who turned 16 just a month before the attack and recently started sixth form at Stuart Bathurst RC High School and College in Wednesbury, said: "I was the youngest person involved.

Owen Richards, left, with his uncle Adrian Evans, grandfather Patrick Evans and brother Joel

"Lucy and Naomi were the closest in age group to me. We met in hospital in Tunisia and kept in touch when we got home, texting and messaging each other regularly. We can relate to each other and what we went through in a way that people who weren't there cannot."

Owen and Joel, 19, had been treated to the holiday as a reward for working so hard for their exams. Owen was aiming to get back in time for his school prom; Joel, a promising footballer and referee, was going out to Hungary to officiate some matches; then they were looking forward to a holiday with their mother Suzanne.

She recalled the moment she received the phone call from her son. "That morning everything had been normal. Then there was that one phone call and everything changed," she said.

"It happened so quickly. Owen was using someone else's phone so he couldn't speak for long. I could hardly believe what he was saying. But I put the TV on and realised it was real.

"I'm so glad Owen rang and that I found out from him rather than just hearing about it on the news. Otherwise I wouldn't have known if he was OK.

"I felt so helpless because I was so far away.

"Owen was 16 and he was on his own. He'd only got Lucy and Naomi with him.

"When I reached him, we had lots of hugs and tears, it was such a relief to get to him."

"Owen misses his brother. He looked up to him for everything. They had a fantastic relationship."

Phoenix is to rise as new licence granted

A PUB which lost its licence after more than 100 cannabis plants were found is to open as a totally new venue after different people took over the site.

Sandwell Council has granted a premises licence for the new pub to open at Phoenix House, Castle Street, Tipton. It will be run by Phalwant and Tarlock Singh who told councillors they planned to have the new venue up-and-running as soon as possible.

The site was previously known as the Laffin Few.

Committee members were told police carrying out routine checks last October police had discovered 110 cannabis plants, worth around £5,000. The licence had been surrendered three days later.

Mr Phalwant Singh said they had been working hard to 'clean up the mess' the previous licence holders had left at the site.

Police were originally concerned the application asked for alcohol to be served right up until closing time. But this was amended so drinks will instead stop being served half-an-hour before the pub shuts.

Requested

There was also a concern about a request allowing live music at the venue to be played from noon until 1am on Friday and Saturdays. As part of the conditions of the licence, members of the panel amended this so music can be played until 12.30am.

Mr Singh said the only reason they had requested live music form part of the licence was because the venue had a function hall which would be used for events.

"Our main focus with this pub is to serve food and drink," he said.

"That is the main objective of what we want to do. We want to be a good neighbour to people in the area. We want this business to be a success and for those people to come along and use the pub."

Mr Singh agreed to provide mobile phone numbers for nearby residents to call in the event of any problems with noise or other issues.

He said as part of their work on the building they had ripped out a stage which had been at the site previously. The pub will serve curry dishes alongside other Indian cuisine.

Committee chairman Peter Allen said: "We have taken into account the concerns and believe they have been answered with the conditions placed."

Walk provides home comforts

Debbie Chapman, front centre, and colleagues from Dovedale Court Care Home, Wednesbury, with their walking boots

CARING nursing home staff had their walking boots at the ready as they took on a fundraising six-mile trek in the Peak District.

More than £300 was raised by nine staff at Dovedale Court Care Home in Wednesbury following the walk on October 7. The cash will go into the residents' comfort fund to put on a range of activities for the 76 residents in their care.

Care home administrator Cassie Shilton, said: "It was a little bit slippy underfoot, with some sore legs but everyone had fun and returned safely back.

"One of our activity co-ordinators found the Dovedale valley in the Peak District and it sounded great for our walk – and the name fit perfect too.

"It means that the money can now go towards anything that residents want including our Christmas pantomime this year."

The Holyhead Road home offers Dementia, Nursing, Respite and End of Life care.

The residents comfort fund was set up by staff four years ago.

Dawn Wilkes, activity co-ordinator, added: "We are already planning our next charity campaign, which we think will be a survival night involving tents.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Silver Sword is all set for stage

THEATREGOERS in the West Midlands will get the chance to see a much-loved children's novel brought to life on stage this month.

Ian Serraillier's The Silver Sword will be at The Old Rep from October 22-24. Tickets are £14, with concessions at £12. Call 0121 3599444 or visit www.oldreptheatre.co.uk

Originally written in 1956, it tells the story of a dispersed post-war European family battling to come together against all the odds. Starring Tom Mackley, the production features a string of animal puppets.

Crews alerted as tyres set alight

ARSONISTS set light to dozens of tyres on a site in Moxley for the third time in less than a month. The blaze sent thick plumes of smoke into the sky that could be seen for miles.

The tyres were set alight on waste land off Bull Lane where they had been dumped. The site is a regular target of fly-tippers.

Fire crews from Tipton and Dudley were alerted just after 4.30pm on Sunday October 4. Vandals set fire to 30 tyres at the same spot three weeks ago and also on September 6 when 40 to 50 tyres were ignited.

Care provider's Macmillan aid

A CARE provider has raised £100 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The firm, which looks after elderly or otherwise vulnerable people living in and around the Black Country area, hosted a coffee morning at its offices on September 25.

Rebecca Mocroft, Care Manager, said: "As we deliver care and support services ourselves, we understand the work and research related charities do and how vital it is to help them continue."

Crackdown on yobs following complaints

A NEW police crackdown has been launched against yobs causing disturbances in Langley.

People living in Ombersley Close and near Langley Park have complained about problems to police. Neighbourhood officers say concerns have been raised over problems in a alleyway off Ombersley Close. Police are looking to help arrange a forum for residents to express their views.

Sergeant Jamie Neadle said patrols had increased over the last fortnight.

Town devoid of Floyd

BOXING superstar Floyd Mayweather Jnr will not be coming to the Black Country. The sporting superstar was set to come to Walsall as part of a UK tour, providing meet and greet sessions with sports fans. But promoter Spencer Brown revealed talks had broken down.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Why give all shows celebrity treatment?

A NEW business operating in the West Midlands is offering a table service with a difference, staffed entirely with "topless or semi-naked butlers". The muscle-bound beefcakes pictured in the adverts aren't really my thing, but I'm prepared to be tolerant. As long as it's an equal opportunities employer, of course.

■■■

MUCH as I hate the nanny state telling us what to do, I dutifully complied and headed for Tesco at the weekend with a "bag for life" dangling off the hook at the back of my trolley. And after less than 10 minutes in the store, having left the trolley unattended for just a few seconds, it was gone.

Bags for life? Mine lasted one week.

■■■

AS Alan Sugar returns for another series of The Apprentice, he has immediately stepped into controversy by saying that nobody in the UK can truly describe themselves as poor if they have got mobile phones, microwave ovens and televisions.

Yes, it might stick in the craw being lectured on poverty from a billionaire. And he didn't help himself with his ignorant, geographically prejudiced aside that there may be "some people up north who are poor". But he is right, isn't he?

Mobile phones, microwaves and flat-screen TVs are all luxury items which we all managed perfectly well without just a few years ago.

I'm sure there are some genuinely poor people in the UK, and as a country we have a duty to give them all the support they need. But not many.

Many of the people who claim to be poor today would have been considered comfortably well-to-do just a generation ago, and struggling to pay for life's luxuries is not the same as living in poverty.

Describing everybody who simply happens be on a below-average income as "poor" not only cheapens the word. It is also a grave insult to those who truly are in need.

■■■

MEANWHILE, on Sunday BBC2 screened a programme about the history of Aston Martin. Now had it been fronted by a motoring expert, somebody who knows, for example, that you can't describe a car from the 1960s as 'vintage', then it would probably have been very good.

But it wasn't. It was presented by Paul Hollywood, who is a baker. So there was very little fresh insight into the subject matter, but a lot about him.

I know everyone is obsessed with the 'Bake Off' at the moment, but does every programme really need the celebrity treatment? Once in a while, it would be nice to hear from somebody who actually knows what they are talking about.

Proud of his roots, Oldbury's Frank Skinner

Wednesbury poet laureate, Brendan Hawthorne

Acclaimed Walsall poet, solicitor, Ian Henery

Walsall's most famous son, Noddy Holder

Showing the werld ow to spake proper

Ar, it's bostin' to be a Black Country mon, or wench, says **CLARE BUTLER,** as our unique dialect is celebrated

OW am ya? Fancy a loff and a chance to show the werld ow ter spake proper?

The Black Country dialect – it's bostin' ay it? And now our most popular sayings and slang terms are coming under the spotlight in National Dialect Weekend.

This year it will be Wednesbury hosting the annual event, with activities this week and over the weekend, featuring live music, stories and poems showcasing the huge range of English dialects.

The dulcet tones of Scousers, Mancunians, Mackems and Geordies will be ringing out alongside the Black Country tongue. Not, of course, to be confused with the neighbouring Birmingham accent.

There is nothing worse for a proud Black Country mon than being labelled a Brummie.

The accent often gets labelled 'thick', wrongly and unfairly. There's a certain knowing quality to a line delivered in a Black Country twang. Take comedian Frank Skinner, for instance. "When I was a kid I ran everywhere. Do kids still run these days? I thought all that glue sniffing might have slowed them down," he says.

Snooty

In the cut glass, received pronunciation tones of a London toff it would sound snooty, prejudiced and ignorant. But we know what Oldbury-raised Frank's saying. He's one of us.

Or how about Noddy Holder's old Banks's beer advert. "You can save your thankses, I'll have a pint of Banks's." Grammatically it should have every English teacher screaming.

But not around here, it makes perfect sense.

This year's National Dialect Weekend takes place from October 16 to 18. Dialect experts from around the country will be sharing their traditions and taking part in competitions and entertainment at Wednesbury Town Hall, featuring the first official Poet Laureate of Wednesbury, Brendan Hawthorne. The festivities kicked off last week, with a play, An Ox's Tail, which was performed by its author, Walsall poet, and solicitor, Ian Henery.

Brendan says: "The richness of language is to be celebrated and what better stage than the recently refurbished Town Hall in Wednesbury. We have a line-up of Black Country-based entertainment on Friday, starting at 7pm. We have competitions, followed by an evening of national entertainment on Saturday from 10am until 10pm and a guided walk on Sunday morning with local historian Ian Bott, meeting at 9.30am at Wednesbury Town Hall. Come along it'll be bostin'."

National Dialect Day began over 10 years ago by the then Chairman of the Lancashire Society Sid Calderbank who enjoyed travelling around the country performing Lancashire dialect songs and stories. Other dialect enthusiasts showed an interest and got involved and it became and annual event. Now extended to a weekend it travels round the country celebrating the best of Britain's dialects. As a precursor to the weekend, Brendan organised three events under the title A Street Full of Dialect at Wednesbury Library, looking at dialects from further afield.

The first was last Wednesday and involved Chinese dance, literature and songs performed in Mandarin and Cantonese by the Chinese Community Centre of Birmingham, with extracts of the play An Ox's Tail. The weekend itself will features the best Black Country fittle – faggots and peas, 'grey paes un baercon' with a vegetarian option if pre-ordered.

There will be a presentation on 'The Mercian Tung' and a trophy for the best piece of writing in the Black Country dialect.It's 18 years since Dudley Council decided to lighten the mood for drivers caught in the roadworks at Castle Gate with a sign that said: "If yowm saft enuff ter cum dahn 'ere agooin wum, yowr tay ull be spile't!!"

It didn't really matter that anyone visiting from almost anywhere else in the country wouldn't have had a clue what it meant.

The thing about the Black Country dialect is that we've always known what it is we're saying, even if no-one else does.

Now at least, on home turf, we can pit ourselves against the pretenders who claim theirs is the best dialect in Britain.

We know we'm bostin', now it's toime to shew it aer kid.

* **For further details and to register an interest in the National Dialect Weekend email Brendan Hawthorne on moncrow@blueyonder.co.uk**

The famous sign from some years ago, at roadworks in Dudley – can you understand the message?

SOME FAVOURITE WORDS AND SAYINGS

Bostin – meaning 'something to boast about', it's brilliant
Aer kid – friendly term for a family member, typically a younger sibling
Argy-bargy – having an argument or disagreement
Mucker – a close friend
Noggin – head
Havin a loff – sharing a joke with your mates
Ow bin ya? – first thing you say when meeting your friend in the pub to ask how they are
Round the Wrekin – taking the long way round
Blarting – crying or sobbing
Babby – baby, often shortenend to bab, as an alternative to 'love' or 'dear' as in 'ow bin ya, bab?'
It's a bit black over Bill's mother's – the sky in the distance is dark with rain

SO, how well do you know the Black Country dialect? A little quiz for you...

1. **What is a 'wench'?** A) An adjustable spanner B) A woman C) A mood
2. **What is a 'cakehole' ?** A) A bakery B) A tin C) A mouth
3. **If one is admiring another person's 'clobber', what are they referring to?** A) Clothes B) Fighting skills C) Tools
4. **If it's 'bostin' it is...** A) Broken B) Great C) At bursting point
5. **What is a 'bob-owler'?** A) A moth B) A horn C) An alarm D) A hat
6. **A 'cut' is what?** A) An injury B) A cake C) A canal
7. **'Donnies' are what?** A) Hands B) Kebabs C) Men
8. **If someone is 'yampy' they are...** A) Mad B) Whiney C) Sad
9. **If someone is 'half-soaked' they are...** A) Violent B) Drunk C) Slow-witted or lazy
10. **A 'fizzog' is what?** A) A face B) A sweet C) A drink

ANSWERS: 1. B; 2. C; 3. A; 4. B; 5. A; 6. C; 7. A; 8. A; 9. B; 10. A.

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No Labour future with outdated fanatic

IN 1979 Margaret Thatcher won the election after years of disputes three day weeks and industrial strife. What followed was 18 years of Tory rule. If it wasn't for the Falklands war she would most likely have been thrown out in 1985.

The country had its highest unemployment since the war, interest rates were at their highest rates ever recorded, millions lost their homes, hundreds of men killed themselves, hundreds of firms closed down and there was the Poll Tax.

How then you will ask did they stay in power? Simple - Labour had no alternative, it had two leaders, Michael Foot and Neil Kinnock, both were twits and Thatcher used to wipe the floor with them in Parliament even when she left and John Major and his idiot of a Chancellor Lawson were destroying the country's economy.

Labour were too busy arguing among themselves to become an electable party it was only when John Smith came along (who incidentally was Scottish) – long before Tony Blair took the party by its roots and gave it a good shaking that it became an alternative to the Tories again. Now we have Corbyn who wants to go back to the days of the 70s and 80s the fanatics of the Labour party that put him there are not interested in the good of the country but if we don't want another 15 years of Tory rule as in the 80s and 90s the Labour party has to look at its history and start looking for a decent leader – not an outdated fanatic – stop fighting among themselves and start thinking about the country and the people living in it.

H CAMWELL
Tividale

Memories of Gipsy's Tent pub

YOUR recent letter concerning the Gipsys Tent pub brought back memories of when it was owned and run by the wonderfully eccentric brothers Don and Bert Millard brothers.

The lure of cheap rough cider and a clientele of local eccentrics and students gave rise to many happy if hazily remembered nights.

Bannings were a regular occurrence for crimes such as attempting to play the stools as bagpipes and, the most heinous, putting coal on the fire without permission. Thankfully most bannings came with a fixed time limit according to the severity of the 'crime' although local folklore has it that Robert Plant, the local rock star, was banned for life.

Although the atmosphere of the pub could never be recreated it would be nice to keep the exterior facade as a reminder to the many people with fond memories of this wonderful pub.

D BAILEY
Oldbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Watson's mission to steady Labour ship

WHO has the hardest job in politics? Well at the moment it has to be Tom Watson. The West Bromwich East MP and now deputy leader of Labour, has the unenviable task of attempting to steer a left turning ship straight enough to appeal to the masses.

He must try to curb the militant extremes Corbyn seeks and to re-align Labour with normal people. His stance on the national anthem, nuclear weapons and taxes are nothing new, nor his beliefs on the IRA. The time may well be right for a more outright opponent to David Cameron, but surely enabling the party to appeal to both business, the younger voter, the 'grey vote' and the general public is such an enormous job it has to be done from within.

So is the appointment of Tom Watson a blessing in disguise, from under the table, behind closed doors will he begin to reel in Corbyn, slowly clipping these left turning wings...time will tell...a new broom always sweeps clean for a while, until its sullied. Corbyn will have his 15 minutes of fame, will reactivate an interest in Labour, but won't hold the sentiment of the mass public. It won't be long before we hear Mr Watson I presume, watch this space.

S HARRISON
West Bromwich

Two years' extension?

IT seems Police Commissioner Jamieson wants to run on his term for two years rather than stand next year. His reasoning, two years into the new four year term, there will be a Metropolitan Mayor, which might cause problems terminating his four year term.

Well, Commissioner, if the new term was two years with possible extension, there would be no legal complications? I feel sure that as a committed public servant, you will agree.

R W WHITE
Wigmore

Smelling out the mystery

CAN anyone help to identify the odd smell that's been in the Rounds Green/Oldbury area since the end of June?

Sometimes it's around St James Road and Florence Road and KFC, sometimes by Matalan, and also by the bottom end of Shidas Lane and Rounds Green School.

It's a puzzle.

A HICKLIN
Oldbury

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Crash drivers are cut free after their cars roll over

TWO drivers had to be cut free from their cars after rolling their vehicles in separate incidents in the Black Country within two hours. One smashed into a tree and the other collided with a wall outside the front of a house.

Both crashes, last Tuesday night, happened in the space of two hours and the drivers were taken to hospital. The first crash took place on Island Road near Sandwell Recreation Ground just before 9.20pm.

Ambulance crews arrived to find a woman had rolled her car after crashing into a tree. The woman, in her 20s, was struggling to remain conscious and was trapped inside.

Ambulance staff monitored and treated her while the fire service cut the roof off. She did not appear to have any external injuries but was transported to Sandwell General Hospital for further treatment. West Midlands Ambulance Service sent an ambulance, a rapid response paramedic, a paramedic area support officer and a BASICS doctor to the scene.

Paramedic

A second crash shortly afterwards saw a car smash through a wall in front of a house in Ashmore Lake Road, Willenhall, at around 11.05pm.

The car ended up on its side. An ambulance, rapid response paramedic and paramedic area support officer were sent to the scene.

An Ambulance Service spokesman said: "The car suffered significant damage in the crash which completely destroyed the wall. The woman driving the car, believed to be in her 40s, again had to be helped from the vehicle by the fire service. She was treated for back and pelvic injuries, immobilised and given pain relief before being taken to New Cross Hospital."

Chapatti oven drugs woman gets 12 years

A WOMAN who was part of a gang who tried to smuggle heroin worth £1.9m into the UK inside a chapatti oven has been jailed for 12 years.

Kulwinder El Assad from Tipton was sent to prison alongside Mohammed Aslam Khan, aged 61, from Ashton-Under-Lyne and Arbab Akhtar, 29, from Blackburn.

El Assad, 40, of Beaumont Close, was found guilty of conspiring to import Class A drugs after a four-day trial at Leeds Crown Court.

The other two men admitted conspiring to import Class A drugs. Khan and Akhtar were jailed for eight and six years respectively.

National Crime Agency investigators were called in on March 26, last year, after Border Force officers at Leeds Bradford Airport opened an unclaimed package. Inside they discovered the oven, which contained almost 13 kilos of heroin.

Good times are here to Spray in Brum

The cast of Hairspray take to the stage for a photocall to promote the show at The New Alexandra Theatre

THE cast of Hairspray has been spreading their infectious smiles across Birmingham ahead of the hit musical launching in December.

The New Alexandra Theatre will play host to the production which stars Benidorm favourite Tony Maudsley and former Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan. Members of the cast took to the stage lastTuesday in full costume.

Hairspray is being performed 22 times at the venue from December 14 to January 2 – more dates than any other venue on the 40-week national tour. Liverpudlian songstress Claire Sweeney, who will be playing villainess Velma Von Tussle, wowed the audience with her opening performance last month in Leicester, whilst Duncan, as Tracy Turnblad's father Wilbur and X Factor star Brenda Edwards, as Motormouth Maybelle, also took to the stage.

The 1962 Baltimore-based musical tells the story of high school student Tracy and her dreams to dance her way on to national TV. Actress Freya Sutton will play the lead role of Tracey which she first played on a previous UK tour in 2013.

General manager of the New Alexandra Theatre, Andrew Lister, said: "We are delighted to welcome the smash-hit musical Hairspray here to the New Alexandra Theatre this Christmas."

Hairspray originally opened to rave reviews on Broadway in 2002 and subsequently won eight Tony Awards.

To book tickets visit www.atgtickets.com/shows/hairspray-the-musical/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham/

Celebration to highlight project work

A FREE celebration event is being held in Great Bridge during half-term for people to find out more about a community project that runs activities for young people.

It takes place at Farley Park Lodge, off Whitehall Road, on Wednesday 28 October from 1.30-3pm.

Great Bridge Community Forum has recently secured £105,000 from Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme, to continue its young people's project for another three years.

Karen Tittley, from the forum, said: "Our aim is to help young people live healthier lifestyles by providing qualified sports coaches to offer free sporting activities on a weekly basis and throughout school holiday periods."

The project also supports twice weekly after-school clubs as well as holiday playschemes from Farley Park Lodge.

Karen added: "This celebration day is a chance for young people and their families to come along and find out more. Children's work will be on display and sports coaches will be on site to speak to parents about our services."

Light refreshments and taster workshops of sports activities will also be available.

Ladder fall victim is taken to hospital

A MAN had to be taken to hospital after falling from a ladder and onto some concrete blocks in Oldbury. The 65-year-old fell off the ladder at around 1.25pm on Friday October 2.

West Midlands Ambulance Service sent two ambulances to the scene and the man –who sustained injuries to his arm – was taken to Sandwell Hospital for treatment. Paramedic Jon Ostrowski said he was immobilised and given pain relief.

Action call on mess left at park linked to Chaplin

PROTECTORS of a park have called for action after fly-tippers dumped a massive amount of rubbish outside it.

Bin bags, wood, plastic, a cupboard and other waste has been dumped at the side of the road next to Black Patch Park in Smethwick.

Frustrated campaigners say the park in Foundry Lane, which is thought to have been the birthplace of Charlie Chaplin, is often a target for fly-tippers due to its secluded location away from homes.

Sandwell Council was criticised in August for failing to clear rubbish from the park that was left behind by travellers in time for a prestigious visit from Chaplin's son Michael.

He was forced to trudge through litter while making his way to unveil a new park monument. Visitors from the area said they were 'ashamed' to see such an esteemed guest having to dodge bin bags and bottles.

FA view of the fly-tipping which has taken place around Black Patch Park

Battle

Travellers have regularly pitched up on the park, and with mess they have left behind combined with the actions of inconsiderate fly-tippers it has left the park looking like a tip, say residents. The Friends of Black Patch Park group said it has been fighting a losing battle to try and make the park tidier. The group often leads litter picking sessions but they say the rubbish quickly reappears.

Founder member Simon Baddeley said: "Unfortunately almost any urban green space will end up like this if it is neglected. It's very sad but it has been going on for a long time as nobody opens their windows onto that park – there are no homes there. There is great interest in the park because of its history but there is no local population to make a fuss. The travellers always get the blame but this is members of the general public. It is dreadfully depressing to see it like that."

Soho and Victoria Police said on its Twitter account that fly-tipping at the park would 'not be tolerated'.

Rumours that silent film star Chaplin was born at the park were fuelled by the surprise visit of his son Michael, who flew in from the south of France. The 69-year-old took the wraps off a new monument which honoured the Romany gipsies that lived in the park more than a century ago and their work in preserving the park as open space.

Mr Baddeley said he fears the park could become a 'lost opportunity' if the situation is not addressed.

Last month it was reported in Sandwell there were 3,830 reports in 2014 – up 55 per cent from 2,462 three years before. And the cost has rocketed from £146,516 in 2012 to £236,015 in 2014. Council bosses said that the issue was a 'huge problem' for authorities across the Black Country but they were working hard to tackle the issue.

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Services to remember fallen due in borough

REMEMBRANCE services will be held across Sandwell to remember the fallen from the two world wars and subsequent conflicts.

Services will start at 10.45am on Sunday November 8 and a Festival of Remembrance will also be held on the same day at 7.30pm at West Bromwich Town Hall. All are welcome.

There will be parades beforehand leading to each of the services.

An event takes place at Tipton War Memorial, Victoria Park, Tipton, with the parade assembling at Tipton Sports & Social Club.

Another is at Rowley Regis War Memorial, Powke Lane Cemetery; parade assembles at Highgate Street Car Park, Cradley Heath. Sandwell's Mayor Councillor Barbara Price will attend. At Oldbury War Memorial, Oldbury Town Centre, the parade assembles at Low Town Car Park, off Birmingham Street.

For West Bromwich War Memorial, Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, the parade assembles on the Primark car park.

And at Wednesbury Memorial Gardens, Walsall Street, Wednesbury; the

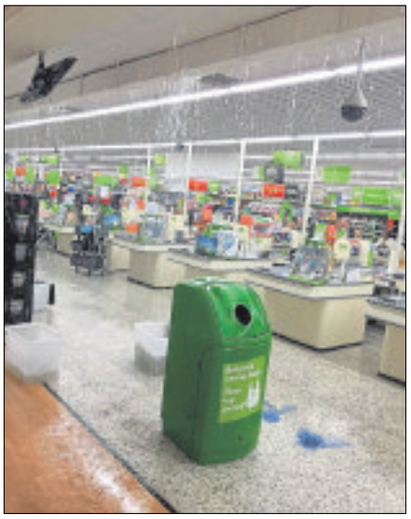
By Simon Stone

parade assembles at Royal British Legion HQ, Church Hill.

For Smethwick War Memorial, Council House, High Street, Smethwick, the parade assembles at Smethwick Labour Club.

The Friends of Wednesbury Library will be open the library on Sunday November 8 between 10am and 12 noon. Refreshments will be provided for all those going to the war memorial across the road from the library. There will be the usual two minutes' silence in Oldbury Civic Square on Wednesday 11 November at 11am. This event is organised by Oldbury Royal British Legion. Details of Sandwell events can also be found at www.sandwell.gov.uk/remembrance

In store for some rain during shower



The Asda store in Perry Barr, Birmingham, as rainwater pours in through the ceiling

RAINWATER gushed inside a supermarket during torrential downpours, forcing shoppers to leave.

Customers ran for cover as water came down from the ceiling near tills in Asda, in One Stop Shopping Centre, in Perry Barr, Birmingham.

Buckets were laid out as shoppers tried to avoid the water flooding over the floor inside, at 1pm last Tuesday.

The incident was caught by shopper Raj Rattu on his phone.

The shop shut for an hour as staff cleaned up.

Customers were asked to leave whilst staff cleaned the affected areas and returned the store to normal.

Shoppers were forced outside for a hour while the leak was blocked and water cleaned up.

Asda spokesman Lauren Pell said: "Due to the freak weather conditions there was some flooding in our Perry Barr store.

"Colleagues worked extremely hard to clear this up and the store reopened an hour later and started trading as normal."

No words can describe care given to patients

THERE are no words to describe the incredible care that community staff nurse Perminder Gill gives to her patients.

So says Devyani Bhatt, the granddaughter of one of Perminder's patients. Devyani is herself training to become a doctor, and recognises the compassion with which Perminder helped her family.

She said: "I have no words to describe the incredible care that Perminder gave to my grandmother.

"Whenever there was any change to her health she would come straight round to make sure she was okay and would be great to all of our family. She was a Godsend."

Devyani's grandfather echoed this sentiment and was moved to put pen to paper to ensure Perminder knew how much the care she gave his wife was valued.

Wisdom

In his letter he said: "The list of qualities you have are magnificent. They include wisdom, inspired intellect, devotion, dedication, brilliant conversations, friendliness, gracious wit and humour, all while keeping the patient informed."

Perminder, aged 41, joined Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust in 2009 and has been in her role as a community staff nurse at the Lyng Centre ever since.

After working with children and older people in her previous role in the mental health sector, Perminder decided to get into a profession where she could continue to progress her nursing skills, all while she followed her passion of working with palliative care patients.

She said: "I have always worked with children and elderly people and was encouraged to take up nursing when I was working with dementia and Alzheimer patients.

"I find the palliative side very rewarding, and once I completed my competency checks in palliative care I became a palliative care champion in our team."

She is a shining example of how to 'live' the trust's nine care promises, demonstrating how she goes the extra mile by overcoming any barriers to providing excellent care.

"I was asked to assess a patient where there were language barriers, as he only spoke very limited English.

"While I was assessing him I spoke in Hindi in a manner that both he and his relatives could understand," she said.

"This gave me chance to go beyond my role and explain everything in detail, making sure my consultations were translated to my patient's first language, Punjabi."

The praise and thanks Perminder receives from her patients and families talks about the impressive way in which she addresses her patients' problems.

"It is very rewarding to receive letters from patients because it enables me to hear directly that I have met the patient's needs and have fulfilled my role to the best of my ability.

"I am happy to be making a difference to people's lives," she said.

Perminder, who is from Wednesfield, has learned a lot while at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals, and is looking forward to improving further to progress her career in the future.

"I have vastly enhanced my knowledge and skill since joining the trust and I am very privileged to be in the position that I am.

"I think that in the future I would like to move into a more specialised area and develop these skills."

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations.

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This week we highlight:
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Community Staff Nurse

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Councils back campaign to keep hedghogs safe

SANDWELL and Dudley council have pledged to support campaigners in their effort to protect hedgehogs.

Willows Hedgehog Rescue, dedicated to rehabilitation and release of native European Hedgehogs, has joined forces with councils to raise awareness of the dangers that brush cutters and 'strimmers' can pose to the animals.

Many hundreds of hedgehogs every year are seriously injured, sometimes fatally by the use of line trimmers or 'strimmers' and many hundreds of hoglets (young hedgehogs) are also orphaned by gardening activities where the sow hedgehog is either killed, injured or disturbed to the extent that she abandons her young.

Darren Jones, from Sandwell Council's grounds maintenance, said: "Sandwell Council's grounds maintenance department is committed to safeguarding wildlife within the borough.

The ground care team, at Sandwell Council, from left to right, Stewart Watts, Jayne Lawrence, David Nock, Barry Scott and Higgy the hedgehog

Extensive

"We no longer apply weedkiller to or strim the base of our hedgerows. We also restrict the cutting back of hedgerows and shrubs to times outside the nesting bird season."

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, for Dudley Council said: "During our extensive green care work across the borough we always take account of all wildlife habitat and their safety. We are happy to help Willows to highlight this important issue."

Awareness literature and posters have been provided to the councils joining with helping raise awareness along with a wildlife aware warning triangle that will be fitted to all line and brush cutters in use.

Jayne Lawrence from Willows said: "Councils are large scale users of strimming equipment and maintain large expanses of hedgerow and verges in and around our towns and cities. These areas provide important habitat for hedgehogs and while leaving areas wild is preferable for wildlife where they do need to be cut operators need to be aware of the potential danger for wildlife if the area is not checked first.

"We are extremely grateful to the organisations that are working alongside us and we hope with both these and the manufacturers help we can have a positive impact on reducing avoidable strimming injuries to wildlife and hedgehogs," said Jayne.

Earlier this year, Willows contacted as many line trimmer and brush cutter manufacturers as they could asking them to include awareness information in manuals and to include a wildlife warning triangle on the products.

Among the manufacturers which replied, were Stihl GB, Bosch UK and Makita UK. Unfortunately, none said they felt able to be able to implement these seemingly simple changes. But they did join with Willows in raising awareness through social media and Makita through newsletters and brochures.

For more information about the project and the organisations involved log onto www.willowshedgehogrescue.co.uk

Are you a member of a local voluntary group?

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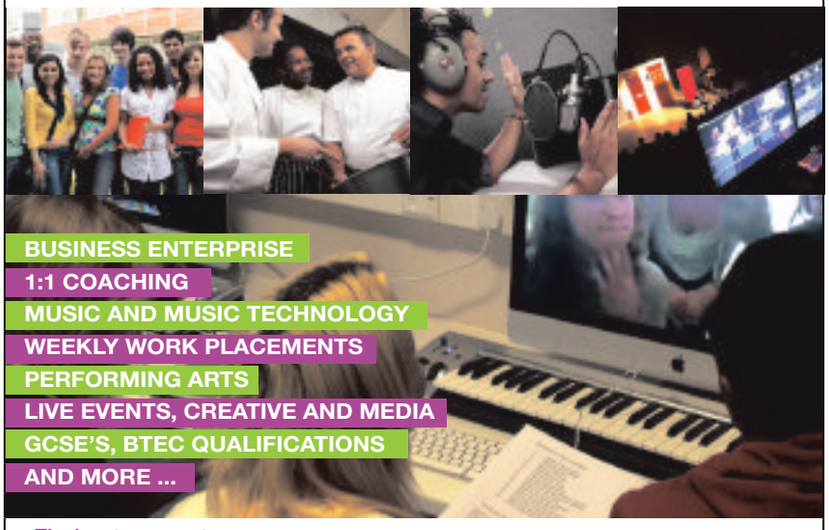

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Cool runnings for the Dart in switch

Mark Lewis-Francis, back, in bobsleigh action at Bath University last week Picture: Nick Hope

'DARLASTON Dart' Mark Lewis-Francis is already aiming to break records just five weeks into his new sporting venture as a member of the British bobsleigh squad.

The Smethwick-born sprinter, who was part of the 4x100m relay team that stunningly claimed gold in the 2004 Athens Olympics, has been training at the bobsleigh headquarters at Bath University and holds high hopes on ice. The next Winter Olympics, to be held in 2018 in South Korea, are a realistic aim, said Lewis-Francis.

He said: "I wouldn't be the first to compete at both but if I make the Olympic team and we win a medal then I'll be first British athlete to achieve a summer and a winter medal.

"So for me that's definitely on the cards. It's a goal and a possible achievement. If I can help these guys get down the slope in one piece and in a quick time then I'm all for it."

The 33-year-old, who trains twice a week in Bath, is still a member of Birchfield Harriers and trains regularly at The Alexandra Stadium where he refuses to let go of a dream return to the summer Olympic sprinting squad. "Moving forward onto 2016 and I'm in a good place. I've got the support of physios who will keep me injury-free. I've got a speed team that I can work with," he added.

"We've got back from Switzerland where we were training last week and it was my first ever two-man push. You just don't realise how fast that thing moves – it's a good job my legs can still move to jump in there!

After suffering niggling injuries over the last couple of seasons, the Birchfield Harrier revealed the change in scenery is like a breath of fresh air.

Lewis-Francis said: "It's a great experience I almost feel as though I'm 14 again starting a brand new sport. "

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COMPETITION

WHAT do Doctor Who's Tardis, Lord of the Ring's Gandalf, the seven wonders of the world, a woolly mammoth and three million LEGO bricks have in common? They'll all be at BRICK 2015, the UK's biggest LEGO show when it debuts at Birmingham's NEC from October 29 to November 1.

Celebrating all things LEGO, BRICK creates a haven for fans of all ages with amazing builds, interactive features and live LEGO building as well as some amazing LEGO models that have never been seen in the UK before.

Master builder and founder of BRICK 2015 Warren Elsmore will be bringing the Wonders of the World to the NEC including likes of the Great Wall of China, Stonehenge and the Grand Canyon. There will also be amazing creations from professional LEGO builders Bright Bricks, who will be bringing a life-size woolly mammoth and sabre-toothed tiger that have to been seen to be believed.

More than three million LEGO blocks in huge 'BRICK Pits' will encourage people of all ages to play and start building their own creation or they can help work on a larger build.

There's also the world's biggest consumer gaming area for the new LEGO Dimensions video game, a live stage filled with LEGO themed family fun, Guinness World Record attempts, a fantastic LEGO shop from Toys'R'Us, a LEGO Museum and a brilliant range of LEGO gifts and collectibles in BRICK Lane.

BRICK 2015 will be held from Thursday, October 29 to Sunday November 1 at Birmingham's NEC. Ticket prices start at £20 in advance with some VIP tickets still available. For more information as well as booking details, visit www.brick2015.com

A woolly mammoth created entirely from bricks will be one of the attractions

A Lord of the Rings scene – in Lego

BRICK 2015
NEC, Birmingham
29th Oct-1st Nov 2015

The Chronicle has teamed up with the organisers to offer a total of 10 pairs of tickets to BRICK 2015. To stand a chance of winning, just answer this simple question.

Which master builder is the founder of BRICK 2015?

Send your answers, with your name, address and daytime contact number to: Brick competition, Chronicle series, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date is October 21.

Usual Chronicle rules apply.

Ice rink sliding into more delays

THE developer behind plans for a huge ice rink in West Bromwich has admitted the scheme has suffered further delays.

However, Planet Ice insists plans to build the facility on the site of the derelict Queens Square car park are 'not dead'.

The firm is currently in discussions with Sandwell Council and Planet Ice chief executive Mike Petrouis said progress was being made.

Plans for the rink first emerged two years ago and bosses originally hoped it would be up and running by spring this year.

However, the prospective opening date has since been pushed back to the end of 2016.

Mr Petrouis said it was not unusual for major planning applications to take a long time to be processed.

He said: "It's progressing, it's not dead.

"One we worked on in Leeds took seven years to eventually get planning, although I'm not expecting it to take that long."

Lorry driver cleared of causing motorist's death

A LORRY driver who hit a car as he pulled in after overtaking on the motorway has been cleared of responsibility for a motorist's death.

George Carr, aged 64, had denied causing Tividale 25-year-old Alex Butwell's death on the M40 in south Warwickshire in March last year by dangerous driving.

The charge was reduced to one of causing death by careless driving following legal submissions during his trial at Warwick Crown Court.

And after deliberating for just an hour and 20 minutes the jury unanimously found Carr, of Digby, Lincolnshire, not guilty of that charge.

The jury had heard that that in the early hours of March 23 last year Mr Butwell was among a group of enthusiasts heading to a car show at the Santa Pod raceway.

Mr Butwell was in his white VW Polo with his girlfriend Rachel Crawford in the front passenger seat and a friend, Ashley Gibson, in the back.

After meeting other people at Warwick Services on the M40, they continued south, with Carr, who worked for poultry suppliers Moy Park, was also heading south in his refrigerated truck to make a delivery in Banbury when he came up behind the convoy. He pulled out to overtake the line of cars, but as he pulled back in, he 'set off a chain of events which led to the death of Alex Butwell,' said prosecutor Stefan Kolodynski.

The nearside step of the HGV's cab hit the Polo, sending it spinning in front of the lorry which then shunted it along before it was thrown into the central Arnco barrier.

Dazed Mr Butwell had gone to the rear of the car where he was struck and killed by a BMW which had pulled into the fast lane after seeing the convoy on the hard shoulder with their hazard lights on.

Victim Alex Butwell

Lorry driver George Carr

Hospital to get extra parking

HEALTH bosses have announced dozens of extra parking spaces will be created at Rowley Regis Hospital.

They hope the move will help to ease the strain on patients and nearby residents.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the site, wants to create a new staff car park with up to 50 spots on land at the back of the hospital, off Moor Lane.

It will free up existing spaces to be used by hospital users, who were clogging up surrounding roads at busy times.

It's part of a £2million revamp of the hospital which follows a public consultation held earlier this year.

The car park has around 110 spaces available. Project manager Paul Scott said making further car parking spaces available would improve access to the site.

Black Country dialect with Chinese flavour

Back, Brendan Hawthorne and Ian Henery, with Xingyang Huang, Yinming Au, Linn Xiang Deng and Kwaiyang Tsui

CHINA came to the Black Country in a spectacular take on Romeo and Juliet as part of a national festival celebrating dialects around the world.

An Ox's Tail, written by Walsall playwright and poet Ian Henery, was performed at Wednesbury Library. Black Country dialect was intertwined in the play to give an added buzz. A cast of eight took part.

Mr Henery, the Mayor of Walsall's poet laureate from 2011-14, spoke of how well it was received. "It was a fantastic night and a lot of fun, " he said. "We had the Birmingham Chinese Community Centre present too and they asked if we could stage it for them again later on in the year.

"The play is from 2000BC but we brought it to live by giving it the Black Country speech in a Chinese style."

A traditional Chinese dance and songs sung in Mandarin and Cantonese were also performed by the Chinese Community Centre. The play also formed part of the 'a street full of dialect' event organised by Wednesbury poet laureate Brendan Hawthorne.

Petition signed over site for travellers

MORE than 2,500 people have signed a petition against plans for permanent travellers' site in Darlaston. The next plan of action will be discussed at a public meeting.

The old Darlaston Multi-Purpose Centre site had been earmarked by Walsall Council to become a permanent site for travellers. But residents have raised concerns that there could be issues with litter and anti-social behaviour.

Hundreds of residents opposing the plans attended a public meeting last month and a petition was launched.

Another public meeting will take place at Darlaston All Active club, in Willenhall Road, on October 21 at 7.30pm.

Stephen Roberts, who lives near the proposed site in Taryn Drive, said: "There are now in excess of 2,500 signatures on the petition. We now need residents to write their own letters of objection to the council."

Walsall Council is consulting with residents over the plans.

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Tributes paid as workers rack up 95 years at firm

TRIBUTES have been paid to a pair of loyal workers who have clocked up 95 years of service between them. Geoff Myatt and Kashmir Singh both began at Bradken straight from school.

Mr Myatt, aged 66, from Wednesbury, joined the metal castings firm in Walsall in 1965 as a pattern maker. But he has worked his way up and is now a methods engineer overseeing all of the staff in the patterns department.

The real ale and steam train enthusiast has also featured in company brochures. Michael Platt, who himself has served at Bradken for 24 years, said: "He is extremely dedicated and his attendance has been exceptional over the years. It would take a lot to stop him coming into work. He is like one of the family here."

Mr Myatt who has racked up a half century was recognised alongside Mr Singh who is just five years behind. The 61-year-old from Reedswood is a shell core maker but has become a jack of all trades at Bradken doing everything from operating the forklift to overhead crane driving. Mr Platt said: "He is very multi-talented and he is reliable but he is also a nice lad as well.

"He often brings Indian food in for the lads which is very much appreciated by everyone. He is just a family man at heart, with three daughters and three grandchildren. But like Geoff he wants to carry on and get 50 years."

Front, Kashmir Singh, Chris Sadler, Rose Myatt and her husband Geoff

Hundreds oppose park sell-off plan

MORE than 700 people have signed a petition against council plans to sell off a section of parkland in Tipton.

The proposals, which affect part of Laybourne Park, in Princes End, have drawn criticism from residents and ward councillor Philip Garrett.

Sandwell Council carried out a consultation with residents after the plans emerged to make the land available to developers.

Councillor Garrett said: "The number of people who have signed this petition show the strength of feeling against this."

Council officials were due to discuss the proposal and petition at a meeting yesterday afternoon (Wednesday).

Takeover delay leads to doubts on car park

UNCERTAINTY surrounds the future of a car park on a busy route in the Black Country after it became blighted by rubbish and dumped trolleys.

The land on the Ringway in West Bromwich is currently in the hands of receivers – delaying Sandwell Council's plans to take it over.

Walkways and flower beds are filled with empty drink cartons, crisp packets and fast food wrappers.

By Clare Butler

Numerous pot holes have formed in the centre of the pathways while parts of the surrounding wall have also been knocked down and left to cause a hazard.

The car park is due to become a pay and display under Sandwell Council plans but has remained free of charge since the head leaseholder for the Farley Centre went into receivership in April this year.

John Hodgkiss, who is co-ordinator of the West Bromwich Business Improvement District (BID) scheme, said they had also reported the car park mess.

Feedback

"We have reported it and are currently liaising with the council about it and hopefully expect some feedback soon," he said.

"One of the things we aim to do with our BID scheme is to provide more cleaning services in and around the High Street and where the car park is situated."

The car park was home to Morrisons supermarket before it closed in March, when store bosses announced it was no longer viable despite it being based on the Ringway for four years.

At present the car park only facilitates homeware retailer B&M, with the former post office building also laying empty for more than two years.

While under The Farley Centre leaseholder, customers were charged £2 for a stay of two hours, but would get a full refund if spending more than £5 in Morrisons.

However, if charges are to be enforced by Sandwell Council then rates will start from 80p for one hour to £4 for more than four hours.

A one-month season ticket will cost £39.

Councillor Maria Crompton, cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "We are still waiting for the receiver to take action to make the car park safe and tidy.

"This has dragged on and the council has now written to the receiver setting out a number of breaches in relation to the lease.

"If the receiver does not respond we will step in and exercise forfeiture rights so we are able to tidy it up and run it," she added.

Stalled £5m work on house restarts

A £5.2 million project to restore Lightwoods House and Park, which ground to a halt three months ago after the contractor went into administration, has this week restarted. Work got back under way on Monday.

It comes after the Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to transfer the contract to new construction company HB&C.

The project had been on hold following the collapse of contractor Fairhurst Ward Abbots in June.

Exhibition

Under the plans, a tea room will be created and exhibition space will also be provided on the ground floor of the building.

On the first floor, there will be rooms for the community to use for a variety of activities, as well as conferences and weddings with the upper floor dedicated to commercial office space.

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Primary school could move to tackle shortage of places

A PRIMARY school offering 420 places and a nursery will replace the smallest school in Sandwell, under ambitious new plans.

Sacred Heart Primary will move from its current base in Victoria Road, Tipton, to the purpose-built building within half a mile off Sedgley Road East. The school would occupy a site the size of nearly two football pitches next to the Coneygre Youth Arts Centre.

Proposals submitted to Sandwell Council say the new school – which could open from October 2016 – will tackle a shortage of local primary school places.

Sacred Heart headteacher Melanie Gee said: "Having a purpose-built state-of-the-art school will be great for children and the local community.

"We will be able to offer places to more than 300 more children. If planning permission is given we plan to start on-site in January 2016 with an anticipated completion date of mid-October."

Statutory

The existing site in Victoria Road is a small 1920s former church school deemed no longer fit for purpose by council chiefs. The school currently has 112 pupils.

In June it was listed as one of four schools across the borough with an average Key Stage One class above the statutory limit of 30.

The new school would have 14 classrooms, a nursery with 30 spaces, a multi-use games area and hard and soft play facilities.

It would employ 53 full-time staff with a further four on a part-time basis.

The council-run community centre would be unaffected by the scheme and be given an improved access drive.

One staff member described the move as a 'fantastic' opportunity.

Scheme helps young people to find work

MORE than 260 jobs have now been created for young people in Sandwell since the launch of a £1 million scheme 12 months ago.

The Sandwell Guarantee aims to find paid work or training for at least six months for 4,000 people in the 16-24 age bracket.

Since September last year, a total of 269 young people have been supported into employment or apprenticeships. Some 400 work placements have also been made available and help has been given to dozens of others who have gone onto training, college, university and employment opportunities advertised elsewhere.

The council works with organisations such as Job Centre Plus, schools, colleges and the voluntary sector to get young people on board.

Director for regeneration and economy Nick Bubalo said: "The Sandwell Guarantee puts into action this ethos of a council-wide response to getting young people into employment."

Nathan is Wanted for music by pupils

The Wanted star Nathan Sykes seen with youngsters at Phoenix Collegiate School, where he performed his new song

FORMER boyband star Nathan Sykes from The Wanted performed his new single for students at a Wednesbury school. Year 7 students were glad he came as hundreds packed into the hall at Phoenix Collegiate School to watch the 22-year-old take to the stage.

Nathan was the youngest member of The Wanted, who spawned three UK top 20 singles including All Time Low. The band went on to sell millions of records worldwide before going their separate ways in 2014.

Nathan told the students: "I'm not very good at saying how I feel. So I decided to write it in a song instead – I hope you like it." Casually dressed in a white T-shirt and jeans, Nathan delivered his new single, the piano-led ballad Over and Over Again, jokingly making reference to starting with the wrong chords, as excited students swayed along in the audience.

Since bursting onto the music scene as a solo artist earlier on in the year, Nathan has already caused a stir overseas with his debut single 'Kiss Me Quick' reaching number-one on the US dance chart in July, beating Nicki Minaj and Madonna to the spot.

The intimate performance at the Clarkes Lane school was part of Nathan's school tours across the UK as ambassador for The Prince's Trust.

He performed two singles before taking part in a question and answer session from pupils.

"It's about encouraging kids to get out there and live their dreams - the only person holding you back is you. We were just normal lads who got to do some amazing things."

Alert issued over bogus contractors

ROGUE traders are trying to force people in Great Barr to have work done to their driveways outside their homes, council bosses have warned.

A legitimate contractor is working on behalf of Sandwell Council currently on repairs to footpaths across the borough.

But council officials say they have received reports of scammers targeting homeowners in Great Barr, with bogus claims that they work for the same company.

The authority warned residents on social media that workmen have told residents they are working for the council to resurface people's drives.

Sandwell Councillor Maria Crompton, who is in charge of highways, said: "A firm of contractors is working in the area at the moment on behalf of the council and we are currently carrying out planned maintenance works to the footways across the borough," she said.

"We have been made aware that someone is going around offering to carry out work to residents' driveways and are claiming to be from the same team. We want to make it quite clear that these people do not represent the council."

Anyone with any concerns about rogue traders in the borough is asked to call Sandwell Council 08454 040506.

Labour club going under the hammer

CRADLEY Heath Labour Club which closed in August after more than 90 years is going up for auction today (Thursday).

The Graingers Lane venue shut suddenly after the committee in charge revealed they could no longer afford to keep it running.

It will go under the hammer at Aston Villa Football Club with auctioneers Cottons predicting the building could sell for up to £180,000.

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Debut by Black Country rockers

ALBUM REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

BLACK Country band EofE (so-called because the name East of Eden was already taken) are maturing nicely with a muscular rock sound on their eponymous album that could appeal to Slam Dunkers into the likes of You Me At Six.

Originally EofE were a rather awkward-looking outfit pitched towards a pop audience, getting their first break supporting McBusted.

I remember a bizarre mash up of Billie Jean with Smells Like Teen Spirit at the LG Arena. But they've beefed up and their debut LP is aimed at an audience with real tattoos rather than wash-off tats.

What they still miss, however, is a killer tune, though Y.O.U and Ruins come close. Dudley's Tom Harris is a decent singer, the songs have good melodies and the guitars crash nicely. But this won't be the breakthrough.

Brummie rock legends **Duran Duran** return with their 14th studio album, **Paper Gods**, with a whole host of guest stars and a sound that is contemporary whilst also nodding to their 80s roots.

It's a patchy offering rather than a rip-roaring return to form but has brilliant flashes of the old Duran Duran magic.

These include synth and strings gem Face For Today and fine vocals by Simon Le Bon on What Are The Chances and The Universe Alone (hints of Ordinary World melancholy).

The highly infectious single Pressure Off benefits from Nile Rodgers contributing choppy Chic-style guitar, a vocal from Janelle Monae (her second great guest appearance after Paolo Nutini's last album) and a liberal sprinkling of Mark Ronson's Uptown Funk influence.

Black Country band EofE with Tom Harris of Dudley (centre) have a self-titled debut

Other guests include Kiesza on Last Night In The City and Lindsay Lohan on the dismal Danceophobia (it sounds like a title Peter Andre would come up with). But best female vocal comes from the band's own backing singer Anna Ross, given a chance to shine alongside Le Bon on Butterfly Girl.

Duran Duran return to their home city on December 4 for a gig at the Genting Arena.

Essex band **Nothing But Thieves** have already got the stadium-ready rock anthems on their impressive self-titled debut and benefit from a barnstorming vocal performance from singer Conor Mason, whose emoting is on a par with Matt Bellamy. In fact the Southend lads supported Muse at their big Rome show.

The fiery, yearning Itch shows the five-piece at their best while other highlights include slinky rocker Drawing Pins, the operatic Excuse Me, pus Painkiller and If I Get High.

Check them out if you like Muse or Florence and the Machine, and catch them live at The Rainbow in Digbeth on October 28. Summer festival favourites **Rudimental** pack solid beats and have an awesome array of guest singers (from rising star Ella Eyre to reggae veteran Max Romeo) on **We The Generation** but their second album lacks character, sounding like a club compilation. Ed Sheeran provides highlights with Blood Stream and Lay It All On Me.

New Order return with their first album in ten years, **Music Complete**, having lost one member (bassist Peter Hook) and regained an old one (keyboardist Gillian Gilbert). The album has contributions from The Chemical Brothers, Iggy Pop, Brandon Flowers and La Roux's Elly Jackson but that doesn't dilute its New Order feel.

Singularity hints at Joy Division darkness, People On The High Line recalls Hacienda hedonism and The Game is elegant electro-pop. New Order are in concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on November 24.

Sheffield's **Richard Hawley** returns to what he does best, mellow, moody and melancholy ballads with a 50s twang on **Hollow Meadows**. He's at The Institute in Digbeth on October 27.

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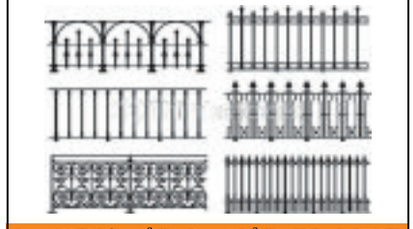

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70s struggles are captured on stage

REVIEW

Anita and Me, Birmingham Rep

FROM the Black Country to Bollywood. Meera Syal's much-loved novel – and later film – translated to the stage at Birmingham Rep.

Only a few days into its run the Sold Out signs were up. And there were no teething problems from the cast or setting either.

Author Syal based the book on her experiences of growing up in only Punjabi family in the mining village of Essington in the 70s, renamed Tollington for the purpose of her novel.

Much of it she admits was fabricated and, although it's clear some of it is embellished, the key context remains – the clash of cultures and the choice between one's family and best friend, all this against the backdrop of casual racism and the threat of bulldozers ready for the onset of the motorway network.

Wedge

Significantly, it is about finding an identity and coming of age, and this Tanika Gupta adaptation expertly captures this.

In seeking to become best friends with the poverty-stricken Anita, Meena loses sight of her middle-class educated, hard-working Indian upbringing – which threatens to drive a wedge between her and her family. She is trying to fit in, but finds herself having to make a key decision as events unfold.

According to Syal's original work, music played a big part in the the family's 1970s household and that becomes significant in the stage adaptation, resulting in spontaneous sing-alongs and leading ultimately to the Bollywood-style finale – but all perfectly delivered.

Jalleh Aizadeh and Mandeep Dhillon as Anita and Meena in rehesrsals

The chemistry between title characters Mandeep Dhillon (Meena) and Jalleh Aizadeh as Anita is clear for all to see, but it would be unfair to single out just those two from an accomplished cast. Joseph Drake is excellent, even down to the local accent, as Sam Lowbridge.

Meena's parents Ayesha Dharker and Ameet Chana can take credit for their performances, while for me, Yasmin Wilde's one particular solo scene as Namina, was one of the highlights of the whole performance.

Fans of Phoenix Nights can also enjoy the performance of Barbara Nice, aka Janice Connolly.

With comedy, hard-hitting and poignant scenes, it will make you laugh, it will make you think and has the potential to make you cry .

Anita and Me runs at the Rep until October 24.

By Mark Shipp

On the sea of love with Starsailor

Starsailor, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

ANTHEMS came thick and fast as James Walsh's soaring angelic tones led Starsailor on a journey across 15 years of amazing tunes.

If proof were needed that guitar-based indie music is still very much alive, there was support from up-and-comers Judas (think early U2) and The Sherlocks, a tight combo living in the shadow of the Arctic Monkeys.

When the headliners appeared and it was straight into a wealth of melodic classics such as Tie Up My Hands and Lullaby from first album Love Is Here, slotting in well with harder-edged later material. It seemed Starsailor wanted to display their own indie leanings with even some of the older songs beefed up, much to the delight of the highly appreciative crowd.

Before performing their stand-out track, the mesmeric Alcoholic, James told the audience that it was usually at this part of the evening that things really take off, but "you're already there."

With its relentless riff, Four To the Floor was saved for the encore and before a rocked up Good Souls. James made a special dedication that each and every one of us were worthy of the title. Ahh! I bet he says that to all the audiences.

Graeme Andrew

Friends are bawdy and brilliant

Fisherman's Friends Town Hall, Birmingham

THERE are no six packs in this group, with the Fisherman's Friends you get the full barrel.

This was just one of the quips from the Cornish singing group's front man Jon Cleave.

The wonderful acoustics of Brum's Town Hall were perfect, for the lusty, gutsy and ribald songs of the Port Isaac choir, joined by newest member Toby Lobb.

Cleave is cheeky, deadpan, boyish and impish during his introductions to the songs which sing of life on the sea, living on the coast and a whole host of carnal activities which are mostly cheekily suggested rather than explicit.

They kicked off with a saucy version of Blow The Man Down with Cleave's distinctive and bootstrap voice telling the tale of sexual exploits with a woman of questionable character.

It the set the tone for the night which was fun, full of energy but not for the prudish.

Danny Farragher

REVIEWS

Peace in our time

Peace, Splashh, Yak, Wolverhampton Civic

WORCESTERSHIRE rock band Peace ended their UK tour with a triumphant Midlands homecoming.

First up were two bands with Wolverhampton connections. Psychedelic-grunge trio Yak fronted by Wulfrunian Oliver Burslem made an awesome noise. The blistering Hungry Heart left us hungry for more. Anglo-Aussie shoegazers Splashh — Wulfrunian Tom Beal on bass — impressed with their melodic and moody psych sound. Check out the majestic swirling All I Wanna Do.

Peace have just two albums to their name but have matured into a slickly accomplished and capable band with a confident frontman in Harry Koisser. Opening with Oh You from latest album Happy People, that got a mostly teenaged audience moshing like there was no (school) tomorrow.

There is more to this band than, admittedly brilliant, guitar riffs. Happy People has a funky undertow (listen to that bass on World Pleasure) and develops the wry humour of their 2013 debut In Love. In concert the band showed a knowledge of rock history older than most of their fans with a solid cover of Led Zeppelin's Since I've Been Loving You.

Highlights included the ferocious I'm A Girl, teen angst number Perfect Skin, Follow Baby and the pulsating Bloodshake. The 90-minute set encores were Love Sick, Higher Than The Sun and funky epic World Pleasure, before they left to a mass salute of peace signs.

Leon Burakowski

Gengahr's fretboard fireworks

Gengahr, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

NAMED after a grinning Pokemon character, this London band will put a smile on the face for anyone longing for a favourite new rock band.

Gengahr's debut album A Dream Outside saw them compared to Tame Impala and MGMT and it translated well to a live environment, singer Felix Bushe's plaintive falsetto rising over the psychedelic squalls and surf twangs of guitar-her o-in-waiting John Victor.

Quirky and with the odd disconcerting lyric (Fill My Gums With Blood), Gengahr are more than sufficiently melodic to appeal outside the indie ghetto and have won fans by paying their dues as tour supports and on the festival scene. 'You were the best band at Reading' shouted someone in the crowd at this authentic above-the-pub rock venue.

This first headline tour reveals a band that aren't just promising, they are delivering, with anthem Heroine, the fretboard fireworks of Embers and woozily addictive She's A Witch. **LB**

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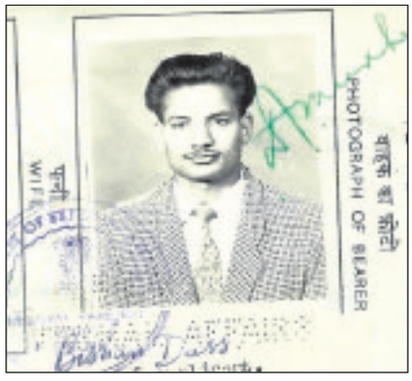
A garlanded Bishan in 1971 on his first trip back to India after he had left years before



Bishan's passport when he left India, back in 1963

The inauguration of Bishan Dass as mayor of Wolverhampton on May 21, 1986

MEMORY LANE

By Professor Carl Chinn

Ex-mayor's remarkable journey

IN early 2013, the Express & Star reported that Wolverhampton had the second highest percentage of Sikh residents living in England.

In total, nine per cent of the city's 249,500 residents regarded themselves as Sikh, according to data released from the 2011 census, with only Slough having a higher percentage.

Sikhs are also prominent in Smethwick, Birmingham and elsewhere, and they play a key role in the economic, social and cultural life of our region – as do Hindus. Their population in Wolverhampton is also higher than the England and Wales average, standing just under four per cent.

Many Hindus originate from Gujarat but came to the West Midlands in the 1970s from Uganda and Kenya, where they had been settled for decades. However, like the Sikhs, other Hindus trace their roots to the Punjab.

Following the Second World War, the 1948 British Nationality Act guaranteed free right of entry to British subjects and Commonwealth Citizens.

For much of the 1950s, it was mostly men and women from the West Indies who took advantage of this opportunity. It was during the 1960s that there was a marked increase in immigration to the West Midlands from India and Pakistan.

Part of the presentation made to Bishan Dass at the end of his term as mayor of Wolverhampton

These hard-working young people played a vital role in the rebuilding of a war-ravaged Britain, settling in the Dudley Road and Blakenhall areas of Wolverhampton; Caldmore in Walsall; and in and around Smethwick town centre and its Cape Hill area.

Wherever they lived, Indian immigrants faced difficult conditions. Large Victorian houses were turned into lodging houses, sleeping sometimes as many as 15 or 16 friends or members of an extended family.

One of the pioneers of this Indian migration was Bishan Dass, whose absorbing and inspirational life story has been set down in an important book called 'Pride v Prejudice'. It is important because it is a rare account of a first-generation immigrant's experiences. In particular his story of aspiration, endeavour and achievement is reflected in the stories of so many of the Hindus and Sikhs of Wolverhampton, Walsall, Smethwick, Birmingham and elsewhere.

The story of Bishan Dass has another importance, one which is more specific to him as a man and as a citizen. This is because his life highlights his constant battle against prejudice and for equality. He was born in 1942 in a small village called Shaffipur in the Jalandhar district of the Punjab in India. It was a secluded small village with a population of around 300 people. Like millions of villagers in rural India the inhabitants were largely illiterate. Bishan writes passionately, powerfully and persuasively about the discrimination: "The so-called Untouchables saw no end to their humiliation and suffering at the hands of the upper caste Hindus.

Upbringing

"They had no right to education, could not buy land or other property, could not worship God, or even take drinking water from the same wells, and they were subjected to live in ghettoes like scavengers."

Bishan's lifelong fight against the evils of prejudice and discrimination is rooted in his upbringing. He was the second of 10 children to Jagat Ram Bains, 'a landless farmer and a very muscular hard working and determined man', and Partapi Bains, who was 'one of the best caring and hard working mothers in the whole world'.Despite the hardships they faced, Bishan's parents ensured that he went to primary school and then high school. Both were about four miles away, and the youngster had to walk there and back. Even at school he 'endured some incidents of caste prejudice and personal humiliation' but despite this he passed his matriculation exams with a convincing first division.There was great excitement when Bishan passed his degree in 1963. "I was the first person from the whole village who had attained such a high accolade," he says.

Bishan now set his mind on continuing his studies in England. He and two friends applied to the British embassy in New Delhi for an employment voucher and within a few weeks the documentation had arrived.

On November 29, 1963, he flew out to Heathrow: "The only contact I had was an address of a distant relative whom I had never met and was living in Wolverhampton."

Picked up with five others by an unofficial taxi driver, Bishan "started on a long journey on a cold, dark rainy evening, dropping us one by one in different towns and cities. I was the last one to be dropped off and we arrived in Wolverhampton at about 9.30pm. The driver knocked at the door of a dimly lit terrace house in Lesley Road in the Heath Town area. A short woman about four feet tall opened the door'.

So began the life of Bishan Dass in Wolverhampton. A remarkable and inspirational man, he has given much to the city through his work and political activity. While working at the Wednesbury Tube Company in Bilston from 1972, he was appointed shop steward for the Transport & General Workers Union and three years later was elected to the council. He was elected mayor of Wolverhampton in 1986. He says: "I am proud to be associated with and to be living in this city over the last more than half a century. I regard myself a true Wulfrunian."

Pride v Prejudice is £9.99 and profits will be shared 50/50 between Compton Hospice and Dr Ambedkar Memorial Committee GB. To obtain a copy, call 01902 496021, 07825 530384 or visit cllrbishandass@hotmail.co.uk

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Editors back – Page 23

Tommy Steele as Glenn Miller

See Page 23

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Swim Deep

Saturday, 7pm
Institute, B'ham
Birmingham indie-rockers Swim Deep will be playing a home-town gig on Saturday. They formed back in 2011 and have a new album called Mothers which is out now.
Visit **theinstitutebirmingham.com**

Circa Waves

Friday, 6.30pm
Institute, B'ham
Exciting indie-rock outfit Circa Waves formed in Liverpool in 2013. The band consists of frontman Kieran Shudall, Sam Rourke, Colin Jones and Joe Falconer.
Visit **theinstitutebirmingham.com**

ROCK & POP

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Sun at 7pm, £10
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The ELO Experience
Sat at 7.30pm, £18.25 - £19.25
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Ron Sexsmith
Wed at 7pm - 11pm, £22.50
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Fightstar
Wed at 7pm, £15
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Ryan McGarvey
Mon at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Robin, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
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Arcane Roots
Sat at 12am,
Asylum, Hockley, Birmingham, B19 3LS. Call 0121 233 1109

Les McKeown's Bay City Rollers
Sun at 7.30pm, £19.50 - £21
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Kid Ink
Sun at 7pm, £22.50
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Stars From The Commitments
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The Complete Stone Roses: Stone Roses Tribute
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Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Fred Zeppelin: Led Zeppelin Tribute
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The Elvis Years
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Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

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Alan Carr - SOLD OUT
Fri at 8pm, £30
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

OTHER EVENTS

Michael Portillo: Life A Game Of Two Halves
Mon at 7.15pm, £14 - £16
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Lou Lou's Vintage Fair
Sat at 11am, £2
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Editors make new start in Highlands

Free of the past, Stafford band Editors have recorded a new album, In Dream, and play Birmingham's O2 Academy

THEY came pretty close to splitting up when former guitarist Chris Urbanowicz left Editors in 2012 citing musical differences.

But now, three years on, Editors can show their true colours as they embark on the next phase of their career. The band, which formed in Stafford in 2002 and was based in Birmingham, have made a clean break with the past on fifth studio album, In Dream.

It was made with Depeche Mode and Nine Inch Nails collaborator, Alan Moulder, and his influence is clear. In Dream is bigger, richer and more electronic than previous works.

The album was produced in an open studio environment at Crear, in the Western Highlands, where they endured hurricane-like weather.

Bassist Russ Leetch said: "Making a record over winter was really great for us, really creative. You are stuck inside anyway. Going up to Scotland and having the elements beating against us was inspiring."

The record will surprise some of the band's fans. It is the 'least-Editors-esque' record in their cannon. "We didn't want to repeat what we'd done before," explained Russ.

Editors have sold out their show tomorrow (Fri) at Birmingham O2 Academy, where support comes from The Twilight Sad.

Tommy plays big band idol

MUSIC legend Tommy Steele, who celebrates his 80th birthday next year, returns to Wolverhampton in The Glenn Miller Story next week.

The show, which brings to life the story of the 1940s American big band leader, runs at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday as part of an 11-venue UK tour.

The pop and West End star, who was dubbed the UK's answer to Elvis Presley in the 1950s, says: "It all started after I gave a lecture to some secondary school pupils about rock 'n' roll and country music, and this little girl, who was probably about 12, asked me what it was like to sing with Glenn Miller, to which I laughed and said, 'I'm not that old!'

"I told this story to friend Bill Kenwright (leading theatre producer) over dinner one evening and he said 'That's it. The Glenn Miller Story, we can do a stage musical about it'. And when I asked him who will play Glenn Miller, he said 'You are'. Despite my protests that I am a pensioner and English, and Glenn Miller was young and American, Bill insisted and said, 'it calls for a song and dance man – you'. I said, 'Bill, I'm too old to play Glenn Miller.' He replied 'Tommy, you're never too old.'

The showbiz veteran revealed why the role had been irresistible: "Glenn Miller is my idol. When I was a little boy my dad took me to the Albert Hall to see him. All I can remember is this wonderful sound and then came the mystery of his death. It's a great story."

Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Weekend of folk in cathedral city

BIG names from the world of folk music will be heading to Staffordshire this weekend for Lichfield Festival of Folk, which gets under way tomorrow (Fri).

The annual shindig will mainly be held in the city's Guildhall, in Bore Street, and surrounding venues, featuring local musicians as well as those from further afield.

The bill for the three-day festival includes music and storytelling workshops plus performances by The Exmouth Shanty Men, Blackbeard's Tea Party (who have released new album Reprobates), Emily Sanders and Granny's Attic, plus many others. See www.lichfieldarts.org.uk or call 01543 262223.

A homecoming and Robin rock legends

THE Hoosiers are back with a new album, The Secret Service, just a year on from their fourth LP The News From Nowhere, and play The Oobleck, part of the Custard Factory complex in Digbeth, on Saturday.

They will be competing with the big homecoming nearby at The Institute where Swim Deep will be unveiling their new psychedelic groove as heard on their second album Mothers.

Legends play Bilston's Robin 2 with The Pretty Things tomorrow (Fri), Andy Fairweather Low on Sunday, revamped Gong on Tuesday and ex-Frank Zappa associates The Grandmothers of Invention on Wednesday.

Classic comedy in silver screen return

LEGENDARY comedy double act Laurel and Hardy are returning to the big screen, in high definition for the first time.

Four of their classic black and white comedies from the 1930s, presented in double bills, are coming to Showcase and Vue cinemas in the West Midlands as part of a nationwide tour.

Way Out West and Towed In A Hole will be screened at Dudley, Walsall and Birmingham on Tuesday evening with a matinee on October 25. The Music Box and Block-Heads follows at the same cinemas on November 15 (matinee) and 17 (evening).

See www.laurelandhardyroadshow.co.uk website.

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 15, 2015

The medieval pavilion tents provide plenty of comfort at Camelot Village

Bicton Countryside Museum traction engine

Inside the luxury Sir Galahad canvas at Crealy Meadows

Crealy Adventure Park Flying Machine

Glamping provides a Came-lot of comfort for the whole family

By Lisa Bailey

CAMPING had never been my thing, but I decided to try glamping during a weekend to Crealy Meadows in Devon.

We were staying in Camelot Village in Sir Galahad – a medieval pavilion tent. This offered far more comfort and luxury than you would expect under canvas. It was spacious with a double bedroom, a twin room and a set of bunk beds.

Heat and cooking was by the wood burning stove and there was light, so it was easy to find your way around. There was a farmhouse style kitchen diner with a Belfast sink and all the utensils you would need.

It was a great adventure and a little bit daunting when on a walk to the toilet block you stumbled upon a full size fibreglass knight with glaring eyes guarding the campsite in the pitch black night. If medieval times don't float your boat, there is also glamping with an African theme.

Not one to go without my creature comforts for long, the toilet and shower block was certainly five star with underfloor heating and touch point showers. It also has family bathrooms and a laundry. The facilities were immaculate.

The weather for the whole weekend was glorious, but it was the end of September and I think seasoned campers would have taken a few extra woollies for the evening.

With a visit to Crealy Meadows, near Exeter, you also get access to Devon's Crealy Great Adventure Park next door through a secret door. A wristband allows you to visit the park as much as you like.

Entertainment for the Meadows is also at the park and live entertainment begins on Friday, October 23, to Monday, November 2. The entertainment includes a mini-disco, race night and cabaret.

There are ghostly goings-on between October 24 and November 1. The park also launches a brand new spooky attraction, Trick or Treat with the Treehouse Trolls, while Scooby-Doo visits on October 30.

There was plenty for all of us in the park with rides, including The Twister, Crealy Grand Prix, Vortex, Tidal Wave and Dino Jeeps.

After all our adventures and fun in the park we visited Exmouth for an hour-long coastal cruise with Stuart Line Cruises, taking us along part of the jurassic coast with beautiful views of the sea and surrounding coastline.

After plenty of sea air, we walked along the promenade and savoured the delights of Exmouth with ice creams in hand. Mine was topped with clotted cream of course. On the Sunday, we visited the truly beautiful Bicton Park Botanical Gardens, about 20 minutes from where we were staying.

We took a 25-minute scenic tour of the park by train and were shown the points of interest on the way, including the park's 41 metre Grecian fir, the tallest of its kind ever recorded.

The Italian garden was stunning with its fountains and we looked around the Palm House – all made of glass – and looked at the cacti in the Arid House.

We also visited the Countryside Museum with its traction engines, wooden wagons and Victorian kitchen. The story of agriculture over the ages was shown to us on a rolling film. For lunch, we ate on the patio of the Garden Centre and as the sun shone we tucked into a delightful homemade meal before going off for more exploring.

CHOICE

Peter Capaldi (right)

Doctor Who (BBC1, 8.20pm)
The Time Lord and Clara are captured by Vikings and must help protect their village from attack by space warriors from the future known as the Mire. They are heavily outnumbered and outgunned, and their fate seems inevitable, so why does the the Doctor seem so preoccupied with a single Viking girl? First of a two-part story guest starring Maisie Williams, familiar to Game of Thrones fans as Arya Stark in the hugely popular fantasy drama, as well as comedian Rufus Hound, with Peter Capaldi and Jenna Coleman.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** World Amateur Boxing Championships. **2.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Following last week's second elimination, the pro-celebrity couples dress up to the nines for another ballroom battle, and are all smiles as they bid to get their names near the top of the leaderboard while secretly hoping their rivals fall flat on their faces during their routines. Whatever the quality, another pair will be leaving tomorrow – and the ultimate decision will be down to judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell. Tonight they have their say on the performances and give their scores as usual, while Tess Daly keeps things ticking over and Claudia Winkleman gets the celebrities' reactions as they leave the dance floor.

8.20 Doctor Who. The Time Lord and Clara are captured by Vikings and must help protect their village from attack by space warriors from the future known as the Mire.

9.10 Casualty. Love conquers all for a young couple, while emergency nurse Charlie is on hand to help a father and daughter deal with their grief. Hospital drama, starring Amanda Mealing, William Beck and Lee Mead.

10.00 The National Lottery Live. The all-important winning numbers.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool at White Hart Lane and Everton v Manchester United at Goodison Park. The Reds were playing their first match since the dismissal of Brendan Rodgers, while Louis van Gaal's men travelled to Merseyside hoping to avoid a repeat of the 3-0 loss they suffered last season against the Toffees. Plus, action from Chelsea v Aston Villa and Crystal Palace v West Ham United.

12.00 The Apprentice. (R) **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Film: War and Peace. (1956) **9.40 Film:** The Lavender Hill Mob. (1951) **11.00** Animal SOS. (R) **11.30** Animal SOS. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.30** The Great British Bake Off – Masterclass. (R) **1.30** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **2.00** Harvest 2015. (R) **3.00** Harvest 2015. (R) **4.00** Harvest 2015. (R) **5.00** Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish. (R)

6.00 Flog It! Experts Charlie Ross and Tracy Martin visit Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre to examine a selection of antiques, including a Chinese snuff bottle and a miniature grandfather clock. Meanwhile, presenter Paul Martin heads for the university's faculty of music to examine the instruments in the Bate Collection. (R)

7.00 Gardeners' World. Actor Griff Rhys Jones offers Joe Swift a private tour of his garden and Carol Klein explores how leaves harness the sun's energy and turn it into food. (R)

7.30 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Armed with his trusty 1913 Bradshaw's Continental Railway Guide, Michael Portillo travels from Sofia to Istanbul along part of the route taken by the Orient Express. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Frazer is asked to look after the platoon's Lewis gun, but finds himself in hot water when he misplaces the spring – and fears it is has been left inside a coffin. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz with a difference, with guests Matt Lucas, Lucy Porter and Ross Noble joining Alan Davies.

9.45 Cradle to Grave. Fred starts work as a commissionaire, only to come into conflict with the boss, and Danny is mistaken for David Essex's brother, something he happily exploits to impress the girls. (R)

10.15 Cradle to Grave. Sharon's wedding causes old memories to resurface for Bet and Fred. Last in the series. (R)

10.45 Film: Drive. (2011) A stuntman-turned-getaway driver tries to protect a criminal's family, only to get drawn into a conflict with the Mafia. Crime drama, starring Ryan Gosling and Carey Mulligan.

12.20 Film: La Vie en Rose. (2007) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Fish Hooks. **7.25** Adventure Time. **7.45** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.20** Countrywise. (R) **10.45** ITV News; Weather. **10.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.55** Downton Abbey. (R) **1.00** The X Factor. (R) **3.00** Rugby World Cup. Coverage of the opening quarter-final (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.25 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 James Bond's Spectre – With Jonathan Ross. Exclusive interviews with the cast and crew of the new 007 blockbuster, including Daniel Craig and the latest Bond villain, Christoph Waltz. Featuring behind-the-scenes filming from locations in Mexico, Rome, Austria and Morocco, Jonathan explores the enduring success of the franchise and its classic cars, futuristic gadgets and Bond girls, and tries fulfil his wish to get behind the wheel of Bond's famous Aston Martin DB10.

7.30 Rugby World Cup. Coverage of the second quarter-final (Kick-off 8.00pm), as the winners of Pool C face the runners-up from Pool D at Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. The winners of this match will progress to the opening semi-final on Saturday of next week, when they will face the team to triumph in this afternoon's quarter-final. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

10.15 The Jonathan Ross Show. New series. The host welcomes another batch of celebrity guests, starting with Vin Diesel, Jessica Ennis-Hill, Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse, while Tom Jones provides the music.

11.20 ITV News; Weather.

11.35 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith presents action from the first and second quarter-finals, which took place at Twickenham and Millennium Stadium respectively.

12.35 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas. **3.00** Show Me the Telly. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Hever Castle Triathlon. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of British Champions Day at Ascot. **4.00** Channel 4 News. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.20 Come Dine with Me. Yvonne Finlayson hosts the final night of the cooking competition in Glasgow, offering her guests a combination of "scientifically-infused" food, high-octane entertainment and scintillating chat – plus a healthy dose of revelations – to try to claim the £1,000 prize. (R)

6.45 Film: Beautiful Creatures. (2013) Premiere. A teenager falls in love with a new girl in his school, only to discover she is a witch. As dark secrets from her family's past emerge, they discover that on her 16th birthday, she will be required to choose a side in a conflict between good and evil. Fantasy based on Kami Garcia's novel, starring Alden Ehrenreich, Alice Englert, Jeremy Irons and Emma Thompson.

9.00 It Was Alright in the 1990s. Matt Lucas narrates another look back at TV shows from past decades, with this edition focusing on the time of Cool Britannia and programmes such as The Word, TFI Friday and The Girlie Show. With contributions by Chris Tarrant, Matt Forde, Jenny Eclair, Samira Ahmed and Philippa Perry.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

11.00 TFI Friday. Chris Evans presents a brand new run of the lively entertainment show, with guests Take That, Steve Coogan, Slaves and Saoirse Ronan. (R)

12.05 Film: Scary Movie 2. (2001) **1.40** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.35** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.45** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.45** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.45** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.45** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.45** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.45 Film:** Columbo Likes the Nightlife. (2003) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.30 Film:** Columbo: A Bird in the Hand. (1992) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Tyne Daly. **5.20** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)

6.15 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong, unwise acts and failed attempts of misplaced ambition, including a motorcycle crashing into a church and a bungled shop robbery.

6.35 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong, including gravity taking its toll on a succession of the unwary and a ferry crashing into a jetty.

7.00 Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring some dating do's and don'ts and a selection of kitchen nightmares.

8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Two agents get caught up in a dispute between a landlord and a tenant who refuses to move out, while on the south coast, debt collection from a Turkish restaurant gets complicated. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, League One and League Two, including Birmingham City v Queens Park Rangers, Leeds United v Brighton & Hove Albion, Coventry City v Blackpool and Leyton Orient v Oxford United. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers.

10.30 20 Moments That Rocked the 00s. Lauren Laverne presents a countdown of some of the most memorable moments from the decade, featuring a look at world-changing news stories and entertainment headlines.

11.55 The Best of Bad TV. The series charting TV gaffes continues with a look at 2000s. (R)

1.10 The Gadget Show. (R) **2.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** Witch Hunt: A Century of Murder. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00 Film:** Scream (1996) **11.45** Family Guy **2.00** Together **2.30** Asian Provocateur **3.00** Russell Howard's Good News **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 The Magic of Mushrooms **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **9.00** Arne Dahl: A Midsummer Night's Dream Part 1 **9.55** Arne Dahl: A Midsummer Night's Dream Part 2 **10.55** The Joy of the Single **11.55** Music for Misfits: The Story of Indie **12.55** Britpop at the BBC **1.55** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **2.55** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **3.55** Close

ITV2
12.15 Tricked **1.15** You've Been Framed! **2.20 Film:** What a Girl Wants (2003) **4.30 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.15 Film:** Hulk (2003) **9.00 Film:** Bridget Jones's Diary (2001) **11.00** Celebrity Juice **11.50** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **12.50** Release the Hounds **1.40** Tricked **2.30** Kylie Minogue: The Hot Desk **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.45 Inspector Morse **3.00** Midsomer Murders **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Hidden Treasure **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.15 The Professionals **1.25** Silverstone Classic 2015 **2.30** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **4.00 Film:** The Sting (1973) **6.40** Storage Wars **7.10 Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **9.00 Film:** Escape from New York (1981) **11.05 Film:** Fearless (2006) **1.05** Hell on Wheels **2.00** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
2.20 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.30 Film:** The Golden Compass (2007) **6.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** The Big Bang Theory: Top 5 Leonard **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.05** The IT Crowd **12.10** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.40** How I Met Your Mother **1.40** The Inbetweeners **2.40** The IT Crowd **3.30** Rules of Engagement **3.55** Suburgatory

Film4
11.00 The Virgin Queen (1955) **1.00** 17 Again (2009) **3.05** The Family Stone (2005) **5.10** Home Alone (1990) **7.15** Zoolander (2001) **9.00** Contraband (2012) **11.10** Mama (2013) **1.10** The Principles of Lust (2003) **3.35** Close

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 15, 2015

CHOICE

Michael Fox

Downton Abbey (ITV, 9pm)
Neville Chamberlain visits Downton for dinner, and is drawn into Violet's plan to save the hospital, with distressing consequences for everyone. Andy finds an unexpected confidante while helping Mr Mason move into Yew Tree Farm, Mary is uncertain if she has met her match, Edith meets Bertie Pelham in London, and Spratt comes to Denker's aid. Mrs Hughes struggles to keep Carson happy, while Mary thinks secrets are being kept from her. Rupert Frazer, Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville, Laura Carmichael, Jim Carter, Raquel Cassidy and Brendan Coyle star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** DIY SOS: Homes for Veterans. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.10 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile Autumn Special. The latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman introduce the results of last night's public vote, as two couples face a dance-off to remain in the competition. Plus, music from Will Young.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents from Plymouth's Royal William Yard. Items brought in to be valued include a ceremonial wooden spoon presented to the student who got the worst exam results in the history of Cambridge University, one of the last flasks of naval rum to be produced, a book of designs by a famous landscape gardener, a ceremonial hammer and chisel and some dolls' house furniture. One visitor discovers the brooch she bought in a charity shop is much older than she thought.

9.00 From Darkness. Claire flees to the safety of the Western Isles after a direct threat to her life, and is convinced she is being watched. Norrie feels her presence endangers their daughter, and insists she return to Manchester to finish things once and for all. John also comes under pressure to crack the case before his misconduct review, and the two come up with a reckless plan that could cost them both dearly if they fail.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents action from the day's sole Premier League match.

11.15 The Apprentice.

12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **6.45** The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.45** Countryfile. (R) **8.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** The Great British Bake Off – Masterclass. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **1.30** John Huston: Talking Pictures. **2.10 Film:** The Man Who Would Be King. (1975) **4.15** The Railway: Keeping Britain on Track. (R) **5.15** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Don't Panic – The Truth About Population. Statistician Hans Rosling uses state-of-the-art 3D graphics to reveal that the problems of rapid population growth and extreme poverty are beginning to be conquered. (R)

7.00 Trawlermen Special: The Prawn Wars. Dougie Vipond follows the creelers, trawlers and scallop dredgers who have to battle to make a living on Scotland's West Coast.

8.00 Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish. Ben Fogle takes the seven remaining contestants to Cuba, where they must fish in the Bay of Pigs using local tyre tube boats and go in search of giant tarpon on the Atlantic coast.

9.00 Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. The flyers attend the UK's largest air show, where the Red Arrows have to struggle to cope with the weather and a group of pilots reenact a Second World War 18-plane launch.

10.00 Family Guy. Peter makes a group of female friends.

10.20 Family Guy. Peter and Lois send Chris to space camp to boost his self-esteem, but when his stint ends and the Griffins arrive to pick him up, they are accidentally launched into space.

10.45 Family Guy.

11.05 Top Coppers. A string of disappearances are connected to a medical research lab, but when Mahogany investigates, he is injected with a lethal serum that leaves him with 24 hours to live.

11.35 Film: 8 Minutes Idle. (2012) Premiere. A lazy call centre employee is forced to secretly live in the office when his parents throw him out of the family home. Comedy, starring Tom Hughes.

12.55 Film: Corridors of Blood. (1958)
2.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.20** Holby City. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Fish Hooks. **7.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **7.45** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.00** Horrible Science. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** Rugby World Cup. **3.15** Rugby World Cup.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.20 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Featuring a bride dealing with language difficulties, a woman getting run over by a fire engine, a dog that shoots a video with a smartphone, and a surprise inside an egg. (R)

7.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present the final stage of the six chair challenge, featuring contestants from the Overs category. Judges Simon Cowell, Rita Ora, Nick Grimshaw and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini must each select six performers to go through to the live shows – but have the freedom to change their mind at any point, so even those who win a place are not safe until the very end.

9.00 Downton Abbey. Neville Chamberlain visits Downton for dinner, and is drawn into Violet's plan to save the hospital, with distressing consequences for everyone. Andy finds an unexpected confidante while helping Mr Mason move into Yew Tree Farm, Mary is uncertain if she has met her match, Edith meets Bertie Pelham in London, and Spratt comes to Denker's aid. Mrs Hughes struggles to keep Carson happy, while Mary thinks secrets are being kept from her.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith presents action from the third and fourth quarter-finals, which took place at Millennium Stadium and Twickenham respectively.

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.15 Perspectives: Rick Wakeman on Vivaldi's Four Seasons. (R) **1.20** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25 Film:** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World. (2011) Family adventure, starring Jessica Alba. **3.05 Film:** A Knight's Tale. (2001) Medieval comedy adventure, starring Heath Ledger. **5.40** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Homes by the Sea. Architectural designer Charlie Luxton leaves behind mainland Britain and heads to the Channel Islands, as his quest to visit impressive seaside homes continues. On Guernsey's Jerbourg peninsula, he takes in a remodelled clifftop villa, and an old windmill that once served as the home of French writer Victor Hugo during his time of exile on the island. Later, on Jersey, he examines a converted railway station at Corbiere, and a medieval church on St Brelade's Bay.

8.00 China: Treasures of the Jade Empire. A look at the relics found in the tombs of China's Han Dynasty. The era is generally considered the golden age of ancient China, rivaling the Roman empire for international power, and has been a defining influence on the country's cultural identity ever since. The programme examines how the emperors arranged to have their dead bodies mummified in the search for immortality and looks at a newly discovered version of the famous terracotta army.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie and During visit a refugee camp, while Saul and Allison are at odds with each other. Thriller following a team of CIA agents battling terrorists, starring Claire Danes.

10.00 Experimental. Tim builds a vacuum-powered climbing kit and challenges Buddy to scale a theatre. The duo also examine G-Forces by attaching a moped to a children's roundabout. Last in the series.

11.05 Film: Haywire. (2011) Action thriller, with Gina Carano.

12.45 Film: Metro Manila. (2013) **2.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Food Unwrapped. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.20** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.35** Football League Tonight. (R) **10.00** The Great Birmingham Run. Coverage of the half-marathon. **12.05 Film:** Mannequin. (1987) Fantasy comedy, starring Andrew McCarthy. **1.50 Film:** Did You Hear about the Morgans? (2009) Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker. **3.55 Film:** Seabiscuit. (2003) Fact-based horse racing drama, with Tobey Maguire.

6.35 5 News Weekend.

6.40 Film: The Fifth Element. (1997) In the 23rd century, the world faces destruction from a seemingly unstoppable force of pure evil. Meanwhile, a New York cab driver encounters a mysterious woman destined to save the Earth from its fate, and has to protect her from a scheming arms dealer and a horde of alien mercenaries. Luc Besson's sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis, Milla Jovovich and Gary Oldman. Edited for language, nudity and sexual content.

9.00 Film: Centurion. (2010) Premiere. A Roman legion is sent on a mission to crush a Pictish uprising, only to be nearly wiped out in a savage ambush. A centurion who survives the massacre takes charge of the survivors and leads them on a daring mission to rescue their captured general and make it back to their own territory alive. Neil Marshall's action thriller, with Michael Fassbender, Dominic West and Olga Kurylenko.

11.00 Film: Conan the Barbarian. (2011) A warrior seeks revenge on the warlord who killed his father, and tries to stop him magically making himself all-powerful. Fantasy adventure, with Jason Momoa and Stephen Lang.

12.55 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Britain's Flashiest Families. A woman who spends tens of thousands of pounds on watches for her children. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00 Film:** I Know What You Did Last Summer (1997) **11.35** Family Guy **1.00** Asian Provocateur **1.30** Together **2.00** Football Fight Club **3.00** Russell Howard's Good News **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 The Bridges That Built London with Dan Cruickshank **8.00** The Many Faces of Les Dawson **9.00** Rich Hall's Inventing the Indians **10.30 Film:** The Hunters **12.20** Ultimate Swarms **1.20** Ford's Dagenham Dream **2.20** Immortal? A Horizon Guide to Ageing **3.20** Close

ITV2
11.15 The Almost Impossible Gameshow **12.20** Catchphrase **1.05 Film:** What a Girl Wants (2003) **3.15** You've Been Framed!: Animals **4.15 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **6.25 Film:** Lost in Space (1998) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00 Film:** White Chicks (2004) **12.20** Viral Tap **1.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.55** Animal Practice **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.20 Inspector Morse **2.40** Lewis **4.40** Midsomer Murders **6.50** Foyle's War **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** City Lights **11.35** Lewis **1.30** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
1.40 Film: The Sting (1973) **4.20 Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **6.10 Film:** Superman IV: The Quest for Peace (1987) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** High Plains Drifter (1973) **11.15 Film:** The Wild Bunch (1969) **2.10** Hell on Wheels **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Film: A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures (2010) **2.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.30** Come Dine with Me: Made in Chelsea Special **3.30** Made in Chelsea Does Come Dine with Me **4.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** The Mechanic (2011) **10.50** Gogglebox **12.30** Chewing Gum **1.00** How to Get Fit **1.35** 2 Broke Girls **2.55** Rules of Engagement **3.15** Baby Daddy **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Went the Day Well? (1942) **1.00** Fred Claus (2007) **3.15** The War of the Worlds (1953) **4.55** Fletch (1985) **6.55** Mirror Mirror (2012) **9.00** Paul (2011) **11.05** Role Models (2008) **1.10** Nowhere Boy (2009) **3.15** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Being Bhaijaan, Channel 4, 1am
Shabani Hassanwalia and Samreen Farooqui's documentary exploring the influence of Bollywood superstar Salman Khan on masculinity in India, told through the story of Shan Ghosh and Balram Gehani's obsession with the actor. To these devotees, Khan's physicality, the words he utters on screen, his charity work and the fact that he has yet to marry all verge on the sacred, but in real life the actor faces a five-year prison sentence for a hit-and-run case dating from 2002 and is currently out on bail. In Hindi and Urdu. (2014)

WEDNESDAY
Fatal Trust, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A widow returns to the small town where she grew up to recover from her grief at the loss of her husband, and gets a job as a secretary to the local doctor. She becomes suspicious about the surprising number of patients who die after treatment, and becomes convinced the seemingly kind medic is poisoning them. Crime drama, starring Amy Jo Johnson and David Haydn-Jones. (2006)

Skyfall, Friday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Total Recall, Channel 5, 10pm
A man living in a bleak future years after a nuclear war has fake memories of being a secret agent implanted into his brain. However, the procedure uncovers the fact that he really is a spy with his memory erased, and he is forced to become a fugitive from the totalitarian government. Sci-fi thriller remake, with Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale and Jessica Biel. (2012)

FRIDAY
Skyfall, ITV, 9pm
James Bond pursues a mysterious criminal mastermind who has orchestrated a terrorist attack on MI6 headquarters and exposed the identities of undercover agents around the world. The trail leads to a rogue former operative who has a personal vendetta against the intelligence organisation's leader. Action thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Judi Dench and Ralph Fiennes. (2012)

A life changing event awaits the citizens

Even the mighty Coen brothers couldn't have foreseen the success of Fargo when it was released back in 1996.

It was a huge hit, won brothers Joel and Ethan an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay, and Joel's wife Frances McDormand picked up a statuette for her performance as pregnant Minnesota police chief Marge Gunderson, who is on the trail of two killers.

Eighteen years later, writer Noah Hawley used the film as inspiration for a 10-part quirky crime drama which starred Billy Bob Thornton, Colin Hanks and Martin Freeman, although it was Allison Tolman who stole the show as Molly Solverson who, like Marge, is a state trooper.

The character pops up as a four-year-old child in the new series, which acts as a kind of prequel to its predecessor. At the centre of the story is Molly's dad Lou, who was originally played by Keith Carradine; here, Patrick Wilson assumes the role.

The story is set in 1979 and Lou is a Vietnam veteran now working as a state police officer who, along with his father-in-law, Sheriff Hank Larsson, is investigating the links between a crime gang and a major Mob syndicate.

Wilson is joined on screen by Kirsten Dunst and Nick Offerman, while Bruce Campbell makes an unmissable appearance as US presidential candidate Ronald Reagan.

But perhaps the biggest draw is Ted Danson, who plays Hank, and wasn't sure about taking the role.

"To be honest, I hadn't watched the first season," he says, somewhat sheepishly. "My kids all kept saying 'No, no, no, no, no, you've gotta watch this!' And I continued to resist, for some reason.

"But then, towards the last month of doing CSI last year, there was an offer, so I immediately devoured the whole thing in about two days. Halfway into the first episode I was just totally hooked by the characters, the writing, the acting.

"The whole mood of it was so fascinating to me, and it definitely captured the spirit of the Coens, and then just took off on its own track. Then I had a phone call with Noah. The part wasn't that large when I read it, and I kept saying 'Gee, is there enough for me to sink my teeth into?' but he remained very mysterious…"

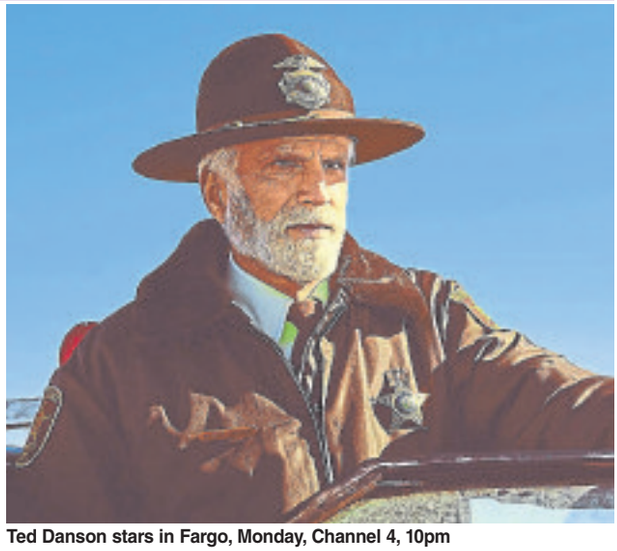
Danson sports an impressive beard throughout, and it was all his own – although he and his wife, Mary Steenburgen, weren't so thrilled by it.

"We both went, 'looks good, feels like crap!'" he laughs. "I couldn't wait to get rid of it. I liked how it looked, but it was like trying to kiss through a burlap sack."

So, instead of focusing on facial hair, Danson would prefer people tuned in to see what promises to be one of 2015's best shows.

"It has that same Fargo tone, but it's also completely different," he explains. "It has the same thing – 'How can I be smiling and grimacing at the same time through all the violence?'

"You still get to know the characters so well because of the leisurely pace. But you really get stuck into a different world – you really do time-travel back to the late 70s. And it does really have a unique voice."


Ted Danson stars in Fargo, Monday, Channel 4, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
SAS: Who Dares Wins
Channel 4, 9pm
New series. Selection for the SAS is one of the world's toughest job interviews and physical fitness is one basic requirement, but what's really being tested is psychological resilience and character as candidates undergo sleep deprivation, interrogation and a series of increasingly complex mind games. In this programme, ex-special forces soldiers recreate the selection process for 30 civilian men, with the first episode seeing the recruits arrive at an isolated barracks in Wales and are introduced to directing staff Foxy, Ollie and Colin, under the watchful eye of chief instructor Ant.

TUESDAY
Building Cars Live
BBC2, 7.30pm
Contrary to what some people may think or say – the British car manufacturing industry is in pretty good shape. Every 20 seconds, a brand new vehicle rolls off the production line somewhere in Britain. This new two-part documentary takes viewers into the fascinating world of the car manufacturing industry, with presenters James May, Kate Humble and Ant Anstead broadcasting live from one of Britain's biggest and busiest car factories. The trio will go behind the scenes to reveal the science, engineering and people that keep us on the road, with access all areas to BMW's MINI plant in Oxford, the oldest car manufacturing site in Europe, with production dating back over 100 years, where a car is built every 67 seconds, which is less time than it takes to boil a kettle.

WEDNESDAY
DIY SOS: Homes for Veterans
BBC1, 8pm
Nick Knowles and the team continue with their most ambitious project to date, with the assistance of the local community and two royal helpers, Prince William and Prince Harry. The second edition sees them create a home for a veteran, who is a triple amputee after an IED blew up in Afghanistan. They are also aiming to renovate the fronts of the houses on the street and put in new utilities, as well as creating a lasting legacy in the form of a support centre, which will help other veterans find homes and jobs.

Building Cars Live, Tuesday, BBC2, 7.30pm

THURSDAY
My Son the Jihadi
Channel 4, 9pm
In 2009, 19-year-old Thomas Evans from Buckinghamshire converted to Islam, adopting the name of Abdul Hakim. Two years later, he left his family home in Buckinghamshire to travel to Somalia where he became the only known white British man to join Al Shabaab, an Al Qaeda affiliate jihadi group behind multiple atrocities, including the 2013 Westgate shopping attack in Kenya. This documentary was filmed over a nine-month period and charts the struggle his mother Sally and younger brother Micheal face as they try to reconcile the Thomas they knew – a loving, mild-mannered teenager – with Abdul, the jihadi-preaching fundamentalist he has become. While Micheal, who had previously been close to his sibling, often refuses to speak to him when he calls, Sally refuses to give up on her son.

FRIDAY
The CIA Kennedy Killing: Conspiracy
Channel 5, 8pm
There have been countless documentaries about the conspiracy theories surrounding the assassination of John F Kennedy, but this programme focuses on death of his brother, Robert, who shot in 1968. His killer, Sirhan Sirhan has spent the best part of 50 years in prison for the murder, but this programme looks at the claims that he himself was the victim of a Manchurian Candidate-style brainwashing. The programme also examines the conspiracy theories concerning other high-profile deaths, including that of TV presenter Jill Dando in 1999, and the suicide of British weapons inspector Dr David Kelly. There's also a look at claims that the CIA made more than 600 attempts to assassinate former Cuban president Fide Castro, plotting to use everything from an exploding cigar to a bacteria-impregnated wetsuit.

The Graham Norton Show
BBC1, 10.35pm
A James Bond special, with guests Daniel Craig and Naomie Harris, who star as 007 and Miss Moneypenny in the latest release Spectre. Plus, in a live world exclusive, singer Sam Smith performs the theme to the movie.

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 15, 2015

BRAIN GYM No.347

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to start you off.

	15		8		10	20	20	17	2	26	10	23
15	16	24	17			24		1		16		2
	10		23	24	20	20	19	17		7	19	17
8	25	13	23					14		2		7
			19		7	26	6	10	7	13	25	23
3	24	12	17	2		2		19		15		13
24		17			18	17	4			3		15
25		2		18		11		7	21	7	12	17
24	2	23	16	24	11	24	9		2			
20		17		1					10 U	21	19	1
24	2	5		14	2	24	22	17	25 N		13	
19		2		10		4			21	13	14	23
1	17	7	2	19	24	25	21		17		23	

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10 U	23
11	24
12	25 N
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 C	2 T	3 V	4 B	5 P	6 Z	7 Y	8 E	9 D	10 G	11 L	12 X	13 R
14 U	15 Q	16 M	17 F	18 I	19 H	20 N	21 A	22 J	23 W	24 K	25 S	26 O

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

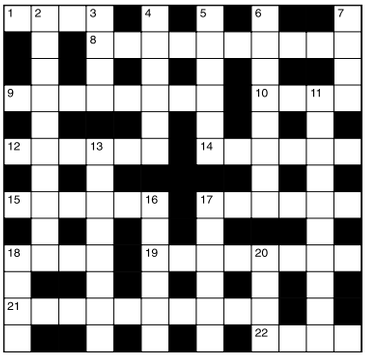
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Mail could have originated in Peru (4)
8. Sign of a poet completely lacking inspiration? (5,5)
9. E.g. a thief to catch a thief? (4,4)
10. Help to place a wager (4)
12. Said my alarm went off (6)
14. Recaps outrageous escapade (6)
15. Lots go under it (6)
17. On receiving flower, doctor becomes crabbed (6)
18. Incline to be thin (4)
19. Rave about big town in truth (8)
21. Case against the prisoner? (10)
22. Coil with a blow? (4)

Down

2. Suggest I'd go in to frighten (10)
3. Skilful sailor takes on the French (4)
4. It provides a star-studded cast for the viewer (6)
5. Presumably they help one to look slippy (6)
6. Does he mend broken marriages? (8)
7. Give a victory roll on the drums? (4)
11. Elucidation of former place (10)
13. Impetus for more than a short time (8)
16. Let the cat out of the bag about meat (6)
17. Spoil drink at the rim (6)
18. Does he travel up by train? Don't believe him! (4)
20. Manners, so to speak (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Platform (4)
8. Victorious (10)
9. Finished (8)
10. Sleigh (4)
12. Ready (6)
14. Show (6)
15. Still (6)
17. Threefold (6)
18. Sour (4)
19. Attend (8)
21. Abusive (10)
22. Frank (4)

Down

2. Dictatorial (10)
3. Cease (4)
4. Noiseless (6)
5. Hinder (6)
6. Punish (8)
7. Boss (4)
11. Great merit (10)
13. Bullfighters (8)
16. Perpetrate (6)
17. Ligament (6)
18. Too (4)
20. Mediocre (2-2)

Sudoku

	4	6		9		7		
	9		8				2	6
		8			1		4	
			5			4		
4		2		8	9	5		
	5	3			6			1
	7		4			9		
	8				3		7	
9		1		6			8	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	2	1	6	4	9	7	8	5
4	5	7	8	3	2	1	6	9
8	9	6	7	1	5	2	3	4
5	8	4	9	7	1	3	2	6
6	3	9	5	2	8	4	7	1
7	1	2	4	6	3	9	5	8
1	6	8	2	9	7	5	4	3
9	7	5	3	8	4	6	1	2
2	4	3	1	5	6	8	9	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Raise; 8 Outlook; 9 Athlete; 10 Corps; 12 Economical; 15 Second hand; 18 Shops; 19 Ducking; 21 Concern; 22 Point. Down: 1 Broadcasts; 2 Tight; 3 Hebe; 4 Modern; 5 Stockman; 6 Correct; 11 Sole rights; 13 Canister; 14 Account; 16 Hiding; 17 Mimic; 20 Cope. QUICK - Across: 7 Force; 8 Adipose; 9 Example; 10 Limit; 12 Dissidence; 15 Astrologer; 18 Extra; 19 Fitness; 21 Protein; 22 Place. Down: 1 Effeminate; 2 Great; 3 Help; 4 Wagers; 5 Dislodge; 6 Comment; 11 Trespasser; 13 Isolated; 14 Station; 16 Offend; 17 Regal; 20 Type.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. In the Bible, who owned the vineyard adjoining King Ahab's palace?
2. What sort of bird is a yaffle?
3. Who were the handmaidens of Odin who served at the Valhalla banquets?
4. In which city is Yeshiva University?
5. In which country was the first British atomic missile exploded in 1953?
6. On which instrument was the 'Harry Lime Theme' played?
7. What art gallery is situated at Millbank, London?
8. Where is 'The Street Which is Called Straight'?
9. What does the cooking term nivernaise mean?
10. What, in American slang, is a 'Holy Joe'?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 1986; 2 Sir Robert Menzies; 3 Jim Callaghan; 4 Aaron Copland; 5 Pluto; 6 Aurora; 7 Greenland and Iceland; 8 Dromedary; 9 Futurism; 10 Henry James.

Niner: ALDERSHOT

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

598874 gives a game,
62552 gives a second game,
1383453 gives a third game.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st October 2015 to 31st December 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Model(s) shown *Celerio 1.0 SZ4 available at £8,999 on the road (Metallic paint available at £415). Celerio range – Celerio 1.0 SZ2 Petrol Manual available at £6,999 to Celerio 1.0 SZ4 Petrol AGS available at £9,799, *Vitara 1.6 SZ5 2WD Manual with Urban Pack available at £19,169 on the road. (Single-tone metallic paint available at £415, dual-tone paint is available at £800.) Vitara 1.6 SZ4 Petrol manual available at £13,999 to Vitara 1.6 DDIS SZ5 ALLGRIP Manual with Rugged Pack available at £22,549.

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Traditional detached home with a lot of character

HAVING delightful panoramic views, this traditional detached residence in Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, also comes with an extensive rear garden and a garden room.

It is for sale through Skitts at £275,000.

This three-bedroom — plus attic room — home has been improved and extended to provide excellent living accommodation.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it has attractive coloured glass windows and doors, three reception rooms plus a garden room, a fitted kitchen, laundrette, WC, three double bedrooms, a bathroom, attic room, off-road parking for numerous vehicles, two garages, garden room and a garden store.

For further information contact Skitts on 01902 686868 or visit www.skitts.net

Accommodation is over three floors

A LARGE and beautifully presented four-bedroomed period home with accommodation over four floors, 25 Heath Street, Stourbridge, is finished to an impeccable standard. It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £299,950.

It has a walled and gated front garden, reception hall with oak flooring that continues to both reception rooms, dining room/sitting room, lounge with French doors and a multi-fuel stove.

There is a cellar, a dining kitchen integrated appliances and a defined glass roof and French doors, three first floor bedrooms, a bathroom, second floor master bedroom and an attractive long rear garden.

For further information contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 396066 or visit www.leeshaw.com website.

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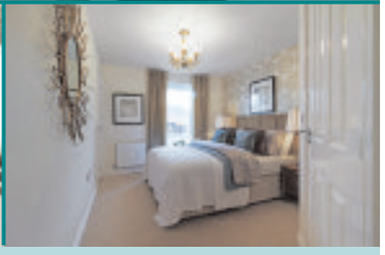

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Photographs of a typical Kier showhome. Elevations and finishes may vary. ^Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions. **Calls cost 2p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

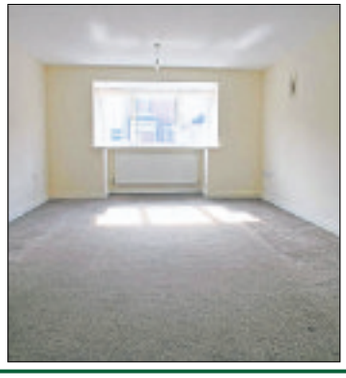
Seven-bed detached is in a pleasant location

THIS modern seven-bed detached house in Florence Street, Smethwick is for sale through Humberstones at £325,000 with no chain.

Occupying a pleasant position within this convenient neighbourhood and having double glazing and gas central heating, the house requires inspection to be fully appreciated.

Its accommodation comprises an entrance hall with stairs off, a delightful spacious lounge with a bay window and double doors to a dining room with French doors, an attractive fitted breakfast kitchen, a utility, a downstairs shower room, five first floor bedrooms (two with en suites), a house bathroom, two further second floor double bedrooms and an additional bathroom. Outside is a driveway providing off-road parking, a garage and rear garden.

Call 0121 434434 or visit www.humberstone-shomes.co.uk



Charming semi has off-road parking

THIS charming three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Wilson Road, Oldbury is elevated from the roadside, standing behind a neat lawned fore garden.

Having off-street parking for two cars, it is for sale through Derek Spires at £195,000.

It has a lounge with dining area and French door to the rear garden, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom with a white suite with a shower over the bath and a glazed shower screen and exposed wooden floorboards. Outside is a beautifully presented rear garden with paved patio area, two sheds, lawn and a garden pond. For further information contact Derek Spires on 0121 4204646 or visit www.dereksspiresandco.com

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WEST BROMWICH — FOR SALE
Byron Street
Spacious 3 bedroom property, large lounge with dining space, first floor bathroom, central heated and double glazed, off road parking.
£125,000 offers

WEST BROMWICH — FOR SALE
Salisbury House
2 bedroom ground floor flat, spacious lounge, kitchen with fitted units and cooker, bathroom with shower cubicle, storage heaters and double glazed windows. cummunal parking space.
£59,999

WEST BROMWICH
Harrington Croft
Modern
2 bedroom apartment on the ground floor, large reception room. good size kitchen and bathroom, ch & dg, designated parking. .
£550

TIPTON — LET
Alexandra Road
2 Bedroom semi detached property, newly re-furbished, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, unfurnished, off road parking.
£575

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SMETHWICK — NEW
Louis Court
2 Bedroom split level flat, spacious lounge, kitchen, 2 bedroom and bathroom on first floor.
£475

WEDNESFIELD — LET
St Cecilia
2 bedroom very spacious flat, central heated, double glazed, available unfurnished.
£375

SUTTON COLD-
Katsura Close
A very spacious 4 bedroom property, lounge, dining area, central heated and double glazed, main bed with en suite, available furnished, garage and private drive.
£1675

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- INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
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- ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS AVAILABLE
- OPEN TO OFFERS
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Offers in the Region Of £300,000

Bear Lane,Henley-In-Arden
- Two Bedroomed Apartment
- Open Plan Living Area
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Underfloor Heating
- Integral Appliances

Offers in Excess of £235,000

Doulton Road,Rowley Regis
- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Downstairs W.C.
- Living Room

OIRO £219,950

James Watt Street,West Bromwich
- Semi-detached
- Porch
- Two reception rooms
- Extended kitchen/diner
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom

OIRO £169,950

Arlington Road,West Bromwich
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- POPULAR LOCATION
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- EXTENDED KITCHEN/DINER

Offers in Excess of £165,000

Comberford Drive,Wednesbury
- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- UTILITY ROOM

OIRO £155,000

Neptune Street,Tipton
- DETACHED PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- RECENTLY RE-FURBISHED
- DOUBLE GLAZED
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING

Offers in the Region Of £140,000

Wolverhampton Road,Oldbury
- PENTHOUSE APARTMENT
- POPULAR GATED COMMUNITY
- GREAT ASPECT
- CLOSE TO AMENITIES
- LOUNGE/DINER
- FITTED KITCHEN

Offers in Excess of £135,000

Remembrance Road,Wednesbury
- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- FITTED KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- FITTED BATHROOM
- THREE BEDROOMS

Offers in Excess of £129,950

Tewkesbury Road,Birmingham
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception rooms
- Downstairs W.C.
- Rear Garden
- Close to local amenities
- Ideal Investment or First Time Buyer

OIRO £125,000

Old Park Road,Wednesbury
- Terraced
- Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom

Offers in Excess of £124,950

Leacroft Grove,West Bromwich
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- CUL DE SAC LOCATION
- SEMI DETACHED
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- KITCHEN/DINER
- THREE BEDROOMS

Offers in Excess of £120,000

Hursey Drive,Tipton
- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- DOUBLE GLAZING

Offers in the Region Of £109,950

Salter Road,Tipton
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- MODERN FITTED BATHROOM
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- REAR GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £99,950

Damson Wharf,Tipton
- Three Bedroom Three Storey
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating

Offers in the Region Of £94,000

Queen Street,Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Carrington Road,Wednesbury
- MID TERRACED HOUSE
- ENTRANCE HALL
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- THREE BEDROOMS

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Bonneville Close,Tipton
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- GREAT ASPECT
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- TWO BEDROOMS

OIRO £85,000

Stanley Road,Wednesbury
- SEMI DETACHED HOME
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- FITTED KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM

OIRO £153,000

Smith Avenue,Wednesbury
- Semi detached
- Entrance porch
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Fitted bathroom

£95,000

Pitchwood Close,Wednesbury
- Terraced Property
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- Three Story
- Three Bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner

£136,000

Holyhead Road,Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- TWO BEDROOMS
- ENSUITE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN

£87,950

Toll End Road,Tipton
- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £85,000

Rugeley Close,Tipton
- FIRST FLOOR
- ONE BEDROOM
- TIPTON AREA
- PERFECT FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS
- LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN

£59,950

Whitehall Road,West Bromwich
- Well Presented Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
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- Ideal Investment
- Ground Floor

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Birmingham Street,
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Garden
- DHSS Considered

Monthly Rental Of £525

Gordon Avenue,West Bromwich
- Three Bedrooms
- Front and Rear Garden
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £615

Wedgbury Close,Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Double Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Off Road Parking
- Under Going Re Decoration
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £475

The Avenue,Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms First Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Holyhead Road,Wednesbury
- Ground Floor One Bedroom Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Crankhall Lane,West Bromwich
- One Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Juliet Balcony
- Double Glazing
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

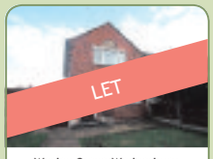
Monthly Rental Of £425

Trouse Lane,Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- DHSS Accepted
- Newly Redecorated
- Good Size Living Room
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Rear Parking

Monthly Rental Of £350

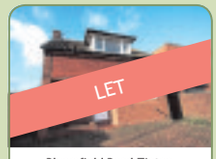
Florian Grove,Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- Fitted Kitchen
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £495



Wesley Grove,Wednesbury
- Three bedroom Semi detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central heating
- Front and Rear gardens
- Recently Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450



Bloomfield Road,Tipton
- Two Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS CONSIDERED

Monthly Rental Of £450

Wiley Road South,Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- New Build First Floor
- Communal Entrance/Staircase
- Hallway
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower Over

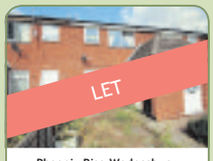
Monthly Rental Of £450

Princes End,High Street
- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £350

Woden Road North,Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached House
- Located Near A School
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Rear Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600



Phoenix Rise,Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Double Glazing
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- MUST SEE!
- DHSS ACCEPTED

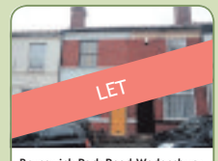
Monthly Rental Of £350

King Street,Bilston
- Two Bedroomed Upper Floor Flat
- Spacious Throughout
- Modern Kitchen and Bathrooms
- Popular Location
- DHSS Considered
- Call Today!

Monthly Rental Of £375

Elwell Street,Wednesbury
- First Floor One Bedroom Maisonette
- Double Glazing
- Gas central Heating
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Perfect First Home
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £375



Brunswick Park Road,Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Terrace House
- Double Glazing
- New fitted Kitchen
- Large Garden
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

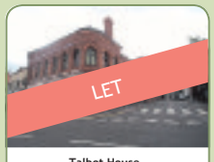
Monthly Rental Of £495

Jasmine Way,Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Integral Garage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Utility and Downstairs WC
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £600

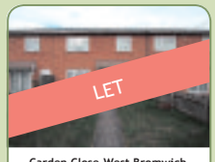
Carver Court,Tipton
- First Floor One Bedroom Flat
- Off Road Parking To Rear
- Electric Heater
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £350



Talbot House,
- One Bedroom upper Floor Flat
- Electric Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- One Months Deposit
- 50% Off Process Fees
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £300



Carden Close,West Bromwich
- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Large Rear Garden
- Front And Rear Access
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Station Street,Wednesbury
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Off road parking
- Entrance Hallway
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £495

Wharfedale Street,Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Entrance Hallway
- Downstairs W/C
- Front & Rear Gardens
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £525

Vauxhall Road,Birmingham
- ONE BEDROOM FLAT
- GROUND FLOOR
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- BATHROOM
- KITCHEN

Monthly Rental Of £475

Willenhall Street,Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Large Rear Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £575

Dorsett Road,Darlaston
- Two Bedrooms Second Floor Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- En Suite Bathroom to Master Bedroom
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

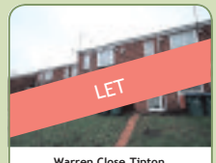
Monthly Rental Of £475

Walsall Street,Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Secured Accses
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £400

Manifold Way,Wednesbury
- One Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £375

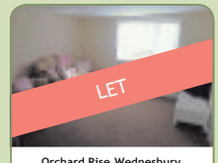


Warren Close,Tipton
- One Bedroom first Maisonette
- Double Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Perfect First Home
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £300

Myvod Road,Wednesbury
- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £425



Orchard Rise,Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms Ground Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Brand New
- Fitted Kitchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

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- Outstanding Double Fronted Detached Family Home
- Six Double Bedrooms
- 27' Lounge
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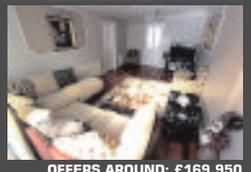
- 18' Modern Kitchen Diner
- En-Suite to Master
- Two Family Bathrooms
- Block Paved Driveway For Ten Vehicles

OFFERS AROUND: £429,950

TIPTON BROOKS MEADOW
- Modern Four Bed Detached Family Residence
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Downstairs WC
- Ensuite To Master
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £207,950

OLDBURY PEEL WAY
- Highly Modernised Four Bed End Of Terrace Family Home
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Integrated Kitchen
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Concrete Print Off Street Parking For Two



OFFERS AROUND: £169,950

TIPTON HEATH CLOSE
- Three Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Through Lounge & Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Street Parking
- Garage With Reinforced Roof For Extension
- Double Glazing
- Gas Fired/ Central Heating

OFFERS AROUND: £124,950

TIPTON DAMSON WHARF
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Downstairs W/C
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Allocated Parking
- Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- Freehold

OFFERS AROUND: £77,500

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TIPTON BAGNALL STREET
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- 18' Lounge
- 21' Kitchen Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Street Parking For Several Vehicles
- Carport/Storage In Rear Garden

OFFERS AROUND: £189,950

TIPTON PROSPECT STREET
- Three Bed Modernised Semi Detached Family Home
- Through Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen With Integrated Appliances
- Downstairs WC
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Rear Garden With Garage
- Concrete Slabbed Fore-garden

OFFERS AROUND: £124,950

WEST BROMWICH OLD MEETING STREET
- Ground Floor Two Bed Modern Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen Area
- Two Good Sized Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- UPVC Double Glazing (Where Specified)
- Gas Fired Central Heating (Where Specified)
- Allocated Parking Space
- Leasehold
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £79,950

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HEMBS CRESCENT, B43 5DG

- An Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Driveway, Garage
- Freehold, No Upward Chain

£160,000

BURFORD CLOSE, WS5 4HL

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Freehold, No Upward Chain

£134,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- Paved Driveway
- Freehold, EPC RATING C

£109,950

DURHAM DRIVE, B71 1HS

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Freehold, EPC TBC

£107,500

CHURCH VALE, B71 4DD

- An Impressive Semi Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- Freehold, EPC RATING E

£299,950

SQUIRES WALK, WS10 9DB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Sought After Location
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Garage & Driveway
- Freehold, EPC Rating D

£239,950

CHURCH VALE, B71 4DR

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Utility/Storage Area, Freehold

£219,950

HONEYSUCKLE DRIVE, WS5 4RH

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- Freehold, EPC RATING D

£209,950

CHURCH VALE, B71 4DJ

- A Refurbished Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Driveway For Four Cars
- Freehold, EPC TBC

£204,950

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3RB

- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- Central Heating, Conservatory
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£184,950

CROCKFORD ROAD, B71 2ES

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- No Upward Chain
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£120,000

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
- EPC RATING F, Freehold

£99,950

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CHARLEMONT ROAD, B71 3HU

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING B, Freehold

£187,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£99,950

HILLARY AVENUE, WS10 0HE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Lounge, Off Road Parking
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£124,950

ASTON COURT, B71 3JY

- A One Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Ideal for 1st Time Buyers or Downsizing
- Double Glazed
- Leasehold, EPC RATING D

£69,950

POMMEL CLOSE, WS5 4QE

- A Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating, Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING C, Leasehold

£78,950

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3QU

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Central Heating
- Freehold

£169,950

SMITHMOOR CRESCENT, B71 3EZ

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Garage
- Freehold, No Upward Chain

£109,950

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NEW

126 ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Fantastic refurbished home Close Warley Woods
- 3 bedrooms
- Superbly presented bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room
- Excellent refitted kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out rear garden
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £179,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

218 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD,

- Semi-detached family home
- Gas centrally heated
- 3 bedrooms & bathroom
- Lounge, dining room & kitchen
- Side garage
- Downstairs W.C.
- Off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON 164,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

14 SABELL ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Freehold mid-terraced
- Close Smethwick High Street
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Two doube bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- In need of upgrading
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £90,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

343 TITFORD ROAD, OLDBURY

- Ground floor flat
- Good motorway links
- 2 bedrooms
- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £99,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

48 WILLIAM ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Detached freehold property
- Three bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor
- Downstairs shower room
- Split level through lounge/dining room
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Verandah, side garage, work store, and carport
- Off-street parking
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Being in need of general updating
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £236,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

59 HURST ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Off-street parking for two cars
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

22 ANDERSON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms
- Spacious bathroom
- Dining room & Lounge
- Open plan kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden
- Inspection to be appreciated
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £152,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

£ Guess The Price??

.....And sell your home for FREE!!

All the above properties were amongst many sold by Derek Spires Estate Agents during the month of August.

Instruct us to the sale of your property during October and you can enter the "Guess the Price" competition.

*At the end of October when the "no commission sale" price will be awarded to the vendor who has estimated a figure closer to the actual total sale price.

58 WEDGEWOOD ROAD, QUINTON

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom with electric shower
- Hall and lounge
- Dining room and kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

75 SABELL ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Ideal FTBs or Investors
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £89,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

89 DEVON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- PRIME LOCATION, CLOSE TO WARLEY WOODS
- 3 BEDROOMS
- FULLY TILED REFITTED BATHROOM
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
- SIDE GARAGE
- WELL STOCKED NEAT GARDEN
- OFF-STREET PARKING
- INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £294,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

32 HERBERT ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Deceptively spacious freehold mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed and alarmed
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom to first floor
- Vestibule, hallway, and two receptions
- Morning room and kitchen
- Garden to the rear
- Period features
- ENERGY RATING: E

OFFERS BASED ON £199,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

78 LIGHTWOODS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Prominent location
- Recently refurbished (2015)
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen & Utility
- INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £135,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

231 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 3 bedroom & bathroom
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen
- Off road parking 3/4 cars
- SIMPLY MUST BE SEEN
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

Improved ground floor apartment with garage

THIS tastefully presented and improved ground floor apartment in Glaslyn Avenue, Rowley Regis comes with an open plan lounge/kitchen area and garage and off-road parking. It is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £116,500 with no chain.

The property is within a quiet modern David Wilson development built on the old Lenches site. It has easy access to high street shopping, various bus routes to both Merry Hill and Birmingham City Centre, as well as Rowley Regis train station – making it ideal for commuters. It has two double bedrooms with wardrobes (en suite to master) and a bathroom. Call 0121 4299986 or visit www.oulsnam.net

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Guide: £59,000 - £64,000

8 Mears Coppice, Brierley Hill
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Cottage
Guide: £144,000 - £148,000

15 Avenue Road, Darlaston
2 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

218 Newhampton Rd West, Wolverhampton
2 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

30 Sycamore Road, Wednesbury
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

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NEW

Merrivale Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- Modern Kitchen
- Ground Floor WC
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £129,950

NEW

Beakes Road, Bearwood

- Traditional End Terrace
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £144,950

NEW

Linden Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen
- Ideal First Purchase
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £129,950

NEW PRICE

Devon Road, Bearwood

- Generously Sized Victorian Residence
- Three Floors of Accommodation
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £359,950

NEW PRICE

Castle Road West, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Delightful Rear Garden
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £159,950

NEW PRICE

Poplar Avenue, Edgbaston

- End Of Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £219,950

NEW

Pearman Road, Smethwick

- Beautiful End Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Stunning Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £129,950

NEW

Milton Court, Sandon Road, Smethwick

- Attractive Retirement Apartment
- Situated on the First Floor
- One Double Bedroom
- Residents Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £54,950

NEW

Amersham Close, Quinton

- Delightful End Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- Excellent Location for Schools
- Ideal First Purchase
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £109,950

NOW AVAILABLE

Selsey Road, Edgbaston

- Well Presented Mid Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ideal First Time Buyers
- Viewing Essential
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £109,950

Topsham Road, Smethwick

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Upstairs Bathroom
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £109,950

Thuree Road, Smethwick

- Attractive Family Home
- Close to Warley Woods
- Four Bedrooms
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £269,950

Park Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £149,950

Pinkney Place, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Dining Kitchen
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £139,950

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Edward Road, Tipton

- End of Terrace
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain
- 3 Double Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Ferguson Drive, Tipton

- modern purpose built first floor apartment
- upvc double glazing ● electric heating
- security entrance doors ● leasehold
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £72,950
Viewing:

Warren Close, Tipton

- Purpose Built Ground Floor Flat
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Corner Position
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC tbc

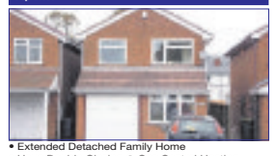
OFFERS AROUND: £77,500
Viewing:

Station Street, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- Superbly Presented Accommodation
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- 3 Bedrooms ● En suite, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £149,950
Viewing:

Kenilworth Close, Tipton



- Extended Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Extension To Rear
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £149,950
Viewing:

Grace Road, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Ideal First Time Purchase / Family Home
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC Tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

Vernon Avenue, Tipton

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● No Upward Chain
- Porch ● Reception hall
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Tierney Drive, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Viewing Recommended
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £112,500
Viewing:

Bridle Grove, West Bromwich

- Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage
- Central Heating, Driveway

OFFERS AROUND: £239,950
Viewing:

St Christopher Close, West Bromwich

- Refurbished Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Gazing and Central Heating, Kitchen/Diner

OFFERS AROUND: £190,000
Viewing:

Sefton Grove, Tipton

- Much Extended Modern Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Superbly Presented Accommodation
- 3 Bedrooms ● En suite, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £174,950
Viewing:

Shaw Road, Tipton

- Semi Detached
- part Gas Central Heating
- Upvc Windows
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

Dial Lane, West Bromwich

- Detached House
- New Build
- Kitchen/Diner
- En-Suite, Four Bedrooms

OFFERS AROUND: £234,995
Viewing:

Dial Lane, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- New Build
- , First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £134,950
Viewing:

Turton Road, West Bromwich — NEW

- Spacious Semi Detached
- UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Reception Hall
- EPC TBC, Lounge & Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing:

Kelvin Way, West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached Residence
- UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central HEating
- Reception Hall
- EPC TBC, Lounge & Kitchen Diner

OFFERS AROUND: £145,000
Viewing:

Cambridge Street, West Bromwich

- Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- , Ground Floor Bathromm

OFFERS AROUND: £95,000
Viewing:

Herbert Street, West Bromwich

- Deceptively Spacious Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing, Loft Room

OFFERS AROUND: £145,000
Viewing:

Heath Lane, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Upstairs Bathroom
- , Off Street Parking

OFFERS AROUND: £116,000
Viewing:

Carden Close, West Bromwich — REDUCED

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Mid Terrace
- Kitchen/Diner
- , Communal Parking

OFFERS AROUND: £87,000
Viewing:

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The Amalfi coastline offers stunning views and a full day is spent driving the meandering roads, admiring the exclusive resort of Positano, the picturesque village of Amalfi and then Ravello, perched in its breathtaking location boasting delightful small cafes and the Villa Rufolo, a charming collection of medieval buildings.

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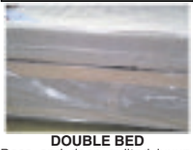

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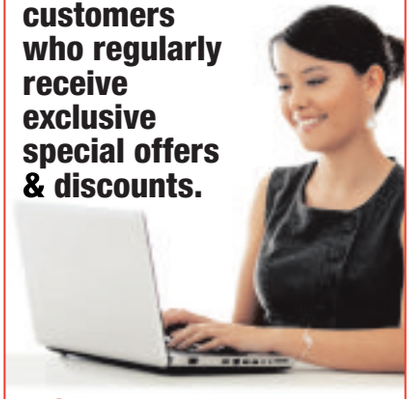

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mjcagarayburn.co.uk

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A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

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CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

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ALL BUDGET TREE SURGERY & LANDSCAPING. Tree trim, shape & removal. Turfing, fencing, patios & much more. Call 07936 882552.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

KITTENS x2, black, black/white, Brother and Sister, to go together, litter trained. 01922 405533.

YORKIE PUPPIES 8 weeks old, with papers, mom and dad can be seen, £350. 07585 557042.

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vets

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5 Business & Farming

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7 Jobs

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drivers

VAN DRIVER - 40 hours pw Monday to Friday, min wage. Must be over 25 for Insurance purposes. Good communication skills, reliable, smart appearance. and a Clean Driving Licence essential. Contact Jayne Wiles on 0121 556 9933 previous applicants need not apply

engineering

SHEET METAL WORKER required. Must be able to work from drawings to manufacture ductwork and other fabrications. Welding experience with ARC & MIG necessary. West Bromwich area. Tel 0121 556 9120.

full time - general

SECTION ASSISTANTS

You must have the ability to multi-task and maintain professional standards at all times.
Duties include stock replenishment, assisting in shop floor merchandising and providing excellent customer service. A forklift truck reach licence an advantage. Previous experience desirable, but not essential as full training given.

CHECKOUT OPERATORS

Knowledge of EPOS laser scanners an advantage, however training provided to successful candidates.
You will possess good organisational skills, a willingness to learn, the ability to work on your own or as part of a team and excellent customer service skills.
Duties include operating a till, shop floor merchandising and stock replenishment.
The above positions involve working a 39 hour shift system to include alternative weekends.
Please apply in writing with your CV to Lorraine Sarjit, Stax Trade Centres Plc, Brades Road, Oldbury B69 2HN or email Lorraine.sarjit@staxplc.co.uk

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Duties: To empty amusement machines.
Hours: 40 Hours per week
Collector position is a field based role
Collecting Cash from our products on customer's sites.
Processing on a hand held terminal & banking cash in.
Cash Collector must be numerate and computer literate and ideally have previous cash handling experience.
The role will include early morning starts.
A current valid driving licence essential
Salary: Circa £14,040 pro rata depending on experience, company vehicle supplied
Applications must include a CV and a copy of Driving Licence via email or Post: Town and County Leisure, Unit 6 Longacre Trading Estate, Longacre, Birmingham, B7 5JD, FAO Gary Braker Email: gary.braker@townandcounty.co.uk

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PART TIME CARE ASSISTANT NVQ II qualified
required to join our team caring for 50 elderly residents

PART TIME LAUNDRY ASSISTANT
Required 15/20 hours per week to cover maternity leave may become permanent position

Application form and further information available from reception

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We are looking for a

SKILLED CNC SETTER/PROGRAMMER

for Horizontal/Vertical Machining Centres. The ideal candidate should preferably have experience in using Fanuc controls. Experience in operating a Co-ordinate Measuring Machine would be advantageous but not essential.
This is an environment where you would continually be programming / setting up different components according to detailed drawings throughout the day, so the ability to read Engineering drawings is essential.
Whilst you are part of the team in the machine shop, essentially you will be self-driven and responsible for your own work and area. We are a growing company who offer variety, interest and training for the person selected.
We work on a day shift basis and have a friendly environment.
Competitive salary paid for suitable applicant.
Please send your CV clearly demonstrating the experience required.
Email: sam.osman@techni.co.uk
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Contract and Salary: Term time only, Monday to Friday, 12:15 - 1:30pm | 6.25 Hrs. per week
Band C, (£8.41 to £9.52 per hour, Jan 2015 pay scales)
A free meal is provided.
We are seeking to appoint a diligent and enthusiastic member of staff to join our excellent Lunchtime team.
The job description and person specification provide a detailed description of the role. These can be found on the website, at the address given.
Please complete a supporting letter of no more than two sides of A4 stating your suitability for the post.
Completed application forms and supporting letters should be sent as hard copies by post to:
Application for Lunchtime Supervisor
Mr James Topham, Headteacher
Wood Green Academy, Wood Green Rd, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 9QU
Or emailed to Admin@woodgreenaacademy.co.uk and marked in the subject line, 'Application for Lunchtime Supervisor'.
Closing date: Midday, Wednesday 21st October 2015.
Interviews: w/c 2nd November 2015.
This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

CT FURNITURE

Would you like to be part of a team that makes a difference to the local community? If so, we are currently recruiting:

FURNITURE SUPERVISORS

Salary £16,000 - £19,000 plus benefits

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We open 6 days a week, so Saturday working will be required. Hours of work are 37 per week (5 days over 6)

The successful candidates will be required to undergo an enhanced DBS.

To request an application pack, contact our HR Department on **01422 376881** or by email at **hr@communitytransport.org**
Please ensure you specify the job title when requesting an application pack.
The closing date for applications is
12 noon Wednesday 28 October 2015
Community Transport is an equal opportunities employer

hotel & catering

EXPERIENCED HOTEL RECEPTIONISTS 20 hrspw, (am & pm hrs - must be flexible). Experience on Brilliant booking reservation system preferred but training given. Oldbury. Restaurant staff also required, am/pm. 0121 541 4090.

motor trade

SEMI/SKILLED MECHANIC Bearwood area. Must be able to carry out servicing and repairs on all makes of vehicles and work to a high standard. Salary £20,000 dependant on experience Call Mark or James 0121 420 3592

nursing & carers

20 HOME CARERS £6.75ph + mileage, Full and part time positions, Car drivers, Tipton, Rowley Regis and Smethwick. Call Proline Care on 0121 687 8871

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

FORD FOCUS 1.6 Zetec, 2006, 12 months MoT, silver, excellent condition inside and out, £2,100 ono. 07443 462653.

MITSUBISHI SHOGUN sport, 2006, 100k miles, diesel, excellent condition, usual knocks for age, great for winter. £4,995. 07531 483618.

PEUGEOT PARTNER WAV. 1.4 Horizon, 2010, Disabled wheelchair access ramp with electric winch, lowered floor. one lady owner, 43,000 miles, 4 seats. Excellent condition. **£4,999 ono. 07976 653388.**

AUDI A4 SLINE
2005, 108,000 Miles, Akoya Silver, abs, air bag, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, one owner, cruise control, pas, diesel, Alloys, CD, Tow Bar
£3,950 ono
07544941903

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2003, 120,000 miles, metallic blue, fsh, auto, 12 months MoT, warranty, grey leather seats and matching carpets/trim, good alloys and tyres. Great car!!
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NISSAN MICRA, AUTO, 1996, 40k miles, green, 5 door. Good condition, Last owned 10 years. Spares or repair. Will run. £295. 07753 467428.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2. 2004, met blue 5dr, full Mot. 68k, SR CD, EW Good condition. ideal 1st car, low insurance. £950. ono. 07824 640194.

ROVER 45 1.6 2003, MoT May 2016, 49,000 miles, good condition. £775 ono. 0121 526 4630.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4LS. 2003, silver, full MoT drives superb. 65,000 miles. R/CD. £875. 07955 610318.

VAUXHALL ASTRA
2.2 coupe, bertone blue, 02 reg, low miles, well maintained, drives lovely, must been seen.
£1,500
01543 425363.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Estate, 1.6 SRi, petrol, 2005, black, 10 months MoT, 57,000 miles, AC, EM, £1195 ono. 07867 477214

VAUXHALL CORSA SXi. 2003, electric windows, MoT, Alloys, CD. £995. 01543 685238.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2004, 74k miles, 1.2L, blue, FSH, 1 month MoT, reliable car £1,100 ono. 07977 630029.

VW GOLF V5, 2.3, 2001, MoT June 2016, 4 new tyres, R32 alloys, lowered suspension, good condition. £1,450 ono. 07454 550522.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN BERLINGO Enterprise Van, 2008. 12 months MoT, FSH, 81,000 miles, £2,495 ono. 07597 181938

VAUXHALL COMBO Van 1300cc, 100,000 miles, 2005, MoT 2016, £1,300. 07768 841443 or 01922 495631.

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motorbikes

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scrap vehicles

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spares/parts

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9 Local Information

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

GEORGE EDWARD ROBINSON (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 8 Rubery Street, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 8HZ, who died on 3/5/2015 are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 23/12/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Chorus Law Ltd, Heron House, Timothy's Bridge Road, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9BX

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (High Street, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure No.2) Order 2015 intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding via High Street, Cradley Heath from Prince Street to Queen Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 30/10/15 effective from 22/10/15. Traffic will be diverted via Newtown Lane, Foxoak Street, St Anne's Road and vice-versa. Purpose – continuing gas mains replacement.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Kelvin Way, West Bromwich) (Temporary One-Way Operation No.2) Order 2015, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Kelvin Way, West Bromwich between Bromford Lane and the entrance to the Bethel Covention Centre other than in a north westerly direction. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 31/10/15, effective from 24/10/15. Alternative route for south easterly bound vehicles via Bromford Lane, Bromford Road, Oldbury Ringway, Birmingham Road, Oldbury Road and Spon Lane South. Purpose – to excavate and repair a defect on the oil pipeline – Mainline Pipelines/ Fisher German.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.
This is a major application.

DC/15/58637	Mr Kevin Barry Sandwell Futures Ltd. PURE Offices	Land At Corner Of Sedgley Road East And Coneygree Road Tipton DY4 8UH	Proposed single storey two form entry primary school with nursery and associated external works, including widening of access, hard and soft play areas, MUGA (multi use games area) and associated landscaping and parking.

This is a major application.

DC/15/58596	Mr Zac Hussain	87 Whitehall Road And Land Adjacent To West Bromwich B70 0HG	Proposed 2 No. retail units with 2 No. two bedroom flats above and two storey building comprising of 8 No. two bedroom flats with associated parking.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.
MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE GENTLEMAN
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general

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24-7 0121 274 0398

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PICK UP the phone CALL NOW
Best Price
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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 15, 2015

Exclusivity and luxury in new SUV from Bentley

Bentley Motors has announced full details of its new model, the Bentayga which combines luxury with effortless performance and everyday usability. With an all-new W12 powertrain, the Bentayga is the fastest, most powerful, most luxurious and most exclusive SUV in the world. It offers a true Bentley driving experience and showcases innovative technology features.

Designed, engineered and handcrafted in Crewe, the Bentayga's styling is pure Bentley. Sculptural with an elegant, timeless execution, it perfectly balances athleticism with confidence. From the four round LED headlamps and large matrix grille, to the distinctive power line and muscular haunches, the Bentley DNA is apparent throughout.

The Bentley Bentayga boasts the world's finest automotive cabin, with unrivalled levels of precision. The detailing in metal, wood and leather – including meticulous tolerances between elements of trim – is the epitome of modern British luxury.

Refinement

An all-new twin-turbocharged 6.0-litre W12 engine is at the heart of the new Bentayga. The mighty 12-cylinder unit combines efficiency and refinement with ultra-luxurious levels of power and torque. With 608 PS (600 bhp / 447kW) and 900 Nm (663 lb. ft) delivering a 0-60 mph time of 4.0 seconds (0-100 km/h in 4.1 seconds) and a top speed of 187 mph (301 km/h), the Bentayga is the world's most powerful and fastest SUV.

A suite of state-of-the-art driver assistance systems and infotainment features designed to enhance safety, comfort and convenience make the Bentayga an innovative, advanced and connected luxury SUV.

Innovative systems available on the Bentayga include Electronic Night Vision, which uses infra-red technology to identify potential obstacles ahead, and a Head-Up Display, which reduces driver distraction and increases safety. The Bentayga's all-new, cutting-edge 8" touch screen infotainment system boasts class-leading navigation technology, a 60GB hard drive, and a choice of up to 30 languages. Rear seat passengers benefit from the introduction of the Bentley Entertainment Tablet – a removable 10.2" Android device with 4G, WiFi and Bluetooth for effortless, high-speed on-board connectivity.

Customers can choose between three different sound systems for the Bentayga: Bentley Standard Audio, Bentley Signature Audio and Naim for Bentley Premium Audio. The latter is the most powerful system in the segment, with 1,950 watts, a network of 18 speakers and super-tweeters for unrivalled recreation of the highest audio frequencies.

A combination of advanced design, innovative engineering and state-of-the-art manufacturing technologies – including the use of lightweight aluminium – has enabled a total weight saving of 236kg compared to a traditional body construction.

Finest

Step inside the new Bentayga and you find the finest automotive interior in the world, with handcrafted wood and leather throughout – engineered with precision to deliver absolute perfection. The attention to detail in metal, wood and leather is the epitome of modern British luxury, and is only achievable thanks to the exceptional skill of the workforce in Crewe.

Sumptuous front seats, individually handcrafted in Crewe and featuring 22-way adjustment including adjustable cushion and backrest bolsters, provide superb support and comfort for all conditions. This cosseted feeling is further enhanced with a six-programme massage system, seat heating and ventilation.

Whether selected in four or five-seat configuration, all of the leather seats in the Bentayga are available with contrast stitching and a quilted diamond design applied to the 'shoulders' and bolsters, echoing the design of a finely tailored British hunting jacket.

Never before has a vehicle so coherently combined genuine luxury with go-anywhere driving ability. The development programme for the Bentayga has been the most exhaustive in the Bentley brand's history, ranging across five continents.

From the dirt and gravel of South Africa and the dunes of Dubai, to the muddy fields of Cheshire, and from -30°C in the frozen North Cape to searing 50°C desert heat, the Bentayga's ability to perform on any surface and even in the most extreme conditions has been proven.

The Bentayga redefines personalisation and bespoke luxury. Paint, leather, veneer and lifestyle options are unlimited and tailored to the individual.

As with all Bentleys, the Bentayga can also be handed over to the highly skilled and dedicated craftspeople at Mulliner, who will respond to bespoke customer requirements.

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DS5 is a stylish class act

By John Griffiths

A car's styling is, to a great extent, a matter of personal choice: you love it, hate it or are left completely unmoved.

For me, the DS5 comes in that first category and that applies particularly to the car's interior – a mix of exclusive club lounge and aircraft cockpit. It's a pleasant, even exciting, place to be even before you press the starter button.

I've been trying self-analysis with regard to this response. Is it just different, and new (as any car can be) or is there a hint of repressed nostalgia for that iconic French motor of the 50s and 60s, the Citroën DS?

To me that legendary motor, while not without its issues, was a real innovator: space age looks yet a world away from the winged wonders inspired by American cars of that era. Plus it pioneered innovative features such as hydraulic self-levelling suspension and directional headlights.

Now DS Automobiles is a stand-alone premium brand under the Citroën umbrella. Like Toyota with Lexus and Nissan with Infiniti, such a rebranding of flagship models is undoubtedly a sensible way of breaking the badge domination of the premium German brands, and Jaguar, in this sector.

The DS5 tested – Presitige Blue 180bhp version – at £32,040 is a prime example, a big, smooth and economical car oozing Gallic style which will certainly make its driver stand out from the crowd in the company car park. No, I can't say it looks like the original DS, but as you pass an eye over its sleek lines there are hints which stir memories for car fans of a certain age. But inside it is thoroughly modern, and unique: vive la difference, one might say.

There's the crystal clear virtual instrument display in front of the driver, while at his side is a high centre console (no, not a transmission tunnel as it's front wheel drive) which means the array of switches and gear change level fall easily to hand, just in the right place. All switches are big and solid, with chromed rims.

Overhead there are front and rear sun roofs (with electrically controlled blinds) which makes the cabin feel light and airy, and give an impression that its even bigger than it actually is – in fact the DS5 will seat five adults in comfort.

In front, the sun roof is split into two (both can be opened and closed individually) divided by an aircraft style roof console, housing more toggle switches and controls. The seats themselves are superbly shaped, well-padded leather and multi-adjustable – some of the most comfortable I can recall.

There is a seven-inch touch screen in the centre of the dashboard, controlling satnav, audio, trip computer and a range of other vehicle functions, plus a steering wheel with remote controls. Dual zone automatic climate control, noise-reducing window glass and an upmarket sound system are also part of the luxury package,

Under the bonnet there's a two-litre turbo diesel, turning out 180bhp and a whopping 400Nm of torque which is a good combination for smooth, swift progress, with good response at low revs, It's quiet, too, rarely raising its voice above a whisper and the ride is particularly supple and comfortable, a true descendant of the DS philosophy.

Its vital statistics are 0 to 62mph in 9.9 seconds, official average fuel consumption of 64.2mpg and (for a car of this size) an impressively low and tax-efficient CO2 rating of 114g/km.

The six-speed torque converter automatic gear box does its job well enough although it isn't perhaps as responsive as some of the latest dual clutch systems if you're pushing on. But then I'm not sure if this is part of the DS5's character: it's a car which seems more about the smooth, relaxed covering of distance rather than the traffic lights grand prix.

There's a long list of standard equipment, including cruise control front and rear parking sensors. rear parking camera, stability control, emergency brake assist, hill start assist, automatic headlights, and door mirrors with kerb lighting.

The other DS5 in Prestige Blue trim is the 2.0 litre six-speed manual, 150bhp model which starts from £29,560. The range has a three year. 60,000 mile warranty.

The DS5 is a class act, offering a blend of performance with economy and tax efficiency. You could say many new cars do that – and that's true, but in the DS you do it in style, and dare to be different.

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New member for the team

Vauxhall sales have rarely been stronger than they are now, so T. Wall Vauxhall has been recruiting more members of the sales team. Paul Westwood has now arrived at the Kingswinford dealership to take up his role as a member of the sales force bringing with him around 20 years vehicle retailing experience gained mainly at the Brindley Group.

Paul's knowledge and expertise was gained through working with the Ford, Toyota, Citroen and Volvo franchises. He held the position of sales manager at the group's Citroen franchise for 18 months but left the company taking on a new challenge.

He returned for a second spell with the company by becoming a part of the firm's Volvo sales team. Within 12 months he'd worked his way up to the position of sales manager.

Paul has also been an Accredited Motability Specialist for more than a decade. He'll take time to find and explain the various options open to Motability customers and works to match their individual needs, his vast product knowledge coming into play.

Paul's friendly demeanour and excellent customer service skills have brought him many loyal customers. Paul says: "It's really gratifying when customers actually seek you out personally when they wish to purchase a car. And it's good to have confidence in the products that you sell."

"I'm excited to be involved with the Vauxhall brand. The manufacturer is producing some terrific products right now, and more are just around the corner, new models such as the seventh generation Astra. It's just stunning to look at and extremely competitive when it comes to running costs, spacious, performance, handling and style."

"Here's more good news," says Paul. "It's mainly British as both the hatch and estate versions are produced at Ellesmere Port."

Knowledge big benefit

With around 32 years motor industry experience to call upon Mark Johnson has joined the sales team at T. Wall Vauxhall in Pensnett, Kingswinford. An ex-Brindleys Group employee for around 20 years, Mark held various positions within the company, working his way up to the ranks to become sales manager, and then general manager.

Mark's product knowledge is very considerable, particularly when it comes to Vauxhall, Citroen, Volkswagen and Audi, as these have been the franchises that he has been deeply involved with. Mark has also been employed at Wolverhampton Motor Services where he was responsible for the sale of many Volkswagen and Audi cars.

A resident of Wolverhampton, Mark is delighted to have joined the sales operation at T. Wall Vauxhall.

He says: "I've been made to feel very welcome by my colleagues in the sales team.

"It's an excellent company to be working for and shares my passion for customer care, where the requirements of every customer are always paramount."

He continues: "With a stream of brand new models having been released, and yet more on the way, it's an exciting time to be representing Vauxhall.

"The release of the all-new Astra is almost upon us and we're all working hard to prepare for this sleek new model's official showroom launch."

Over the years Mark has gained a substantial following with car buyers actually seeking him out as they like dealing with him.

"I've only been here at T. Wall for a couple of weeks," he says, "but I'm already meeting customers from the past.

"It's essential to enjoy meeting people in this job, and of course, I'm looking forward to meeting new customers too."

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Swimmers come from behind to take first round

HALESOWEN swimmers travelled to Wolverhampton for the first round of the National League at the weekend.

As expected the quality of the competition in the Premier division was high, and after 10 races Long Eaton were in front, City of Hereford second and Halesowen third.

Halesowen swimmers fought back, winning some crucial races and by the half way point were ahead of second place Long Eaton by five points.

However, City of Hereford were not giving up and after 42 races had moved into second place reducing Halesowen's lead to four points.

Halesowen extended their lead as they raced to the end of the gala, winning the final relay, whilst Long Eaton and City of Hereford fought for second. This was a great start for Halesowen and a superb team victory.

Final points scores were: Halesowen 206, Long Eaton A 199, City of Hereford 193, Stourbridge A 187, Wolverhampton 157, Mansfield 103.

Double individual event winners were Niamh Larkin in the 50m backstroke and butterfly, Chloe Finch in the 100m butterfly and freestyle, and Robert Jennings in the 100m backstroke and butterfly.

Other individual event winners were Jacob Bailey in the 50m backstroke, and Jack Simpson and Kate Morrice in the 100m freestyle.

The relay teams put on a fine show with the girls winning the medley relay in the 9-11 and 13 years age group events, including Eleanor Stark, Chloe Everton, Libby Hickman, Amber Harrison, Olivia Jay and Georgia Lees.

The boys relay teams went one better winning the 15 years freestyle, the open age group medley and the mixed age 6x2 relays.

Big Dave has the academy solution

RELISHING his unique coaching role that spans Albion's first team, the under-21s, and the under-18s, Darren Moore reckons he has the solution for the 'academy problem'.

In the past, manager Tony Pulis has criticised the under-21s league for not being strong enough to push players into the first team, but the man nicknamed Big Dave by Albion fans believes rewarding the top two teams in that league with spots in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy is the answer.

"I understand exactly what the gaffer means," said the former centre-back. "Having a foot in the first-team camp and having a foot in the academy 21s camp, it's hard, because how do you replicate 30 or 40,000 people on a Saturday? The grounds that we play at are smaller."

Matching up against the greater physicality of sides in League One and below could be the answer, and although the early rounds may not necessarily draw the crowds, there's potential to play in front of some big numbers in the latter stages.

"To actually go and play physically against those teams, I think that would create a replica," said Moore. "That way a lot of the under-21s league would probably keep more of their better players in to keep those top two spots. Going all the way to a Wembley final with the kids, what better way to replicate it?

"The under-21s league will return back to what it used to be, which was really competitive football. I think we've lost a little bit of the edge by trying to replicate it, but we're missing something in between. If rules are done like that, it would lift the clubs.

"So I can understand the gaffer's frustration and I can understand it having a foot in both camps because the Premier League is a ferocious beast at the moment and it gets bigger and bigger every year, the players get better and better every year. Tactically, there's no room for error, and that's why the young lads have to be at such a good standard." ."

Darren Moore celebrates scoring one of his six goals for Albion during his five-year playing career

Defending trio racing to be fit to face Cats

ALBION'S defence could be down to the bare bones for Sunderland's visit to The Hawthorns on Saturday, with both Johnny Evans and Jonas Olsson facing a race to be fit this week.

Evans missed both of Northern Ireland's European qualifiers with a hamstring injury while Olsson continues to be monitored for a groin injury.

Midfielder James Morrison is also a doubt for Sam Allardyce's first game in charge of the Black Cats with an ankle injury.

"We're hoping everyone returns back OK," said manager Tony Pulis. "Evans and Morrison are still being assessed. We will see how they are but both are doubts."

If Olsson and Evans are both unavailable, Pulis may have to turn to James Chester, who he hopes has been given a boost by Wales qualifying for the European Championships.

Although the £8m signing has found it tough so far this season the manager hopes qualifying for Euro 2016 with Wales will lift his fellow countryman's spirits.

"To see Wales and Northern Ireland qualify is wonderful," said Pulis. "To have so many home nations at the Euros next summer will be good. I hope we will see a reaction from those players – if we do, brilliant.

"We will see on Saturday how much of a boost it is for the lads who have qualified."

A club official yesterday dismissed reports that Albion are interested in spending £14.8million on Spanish defensive midfielder Ignacio Camacho in January.

● Albion's game against Liverpool at Anfield has been moved back 24 hours to Sunday December 13 at 4pm for Sky coverage.

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Depleted Brummies end season with a loss

BIRMINGHAM'S season ended in defeat as an understrength side went down 52-37 at Eastbourne.

Following Wednesday's first leg four-point loss, the Surestop Brummies always faced an uphill task and missed out on the Gold Cup after a 99-80 aggregate defeat.

Team manager Graham Drury says his side shouldn't dwell on the results too much after what has been a memorable season.

"Full congratulations to Eastbourne - they were the better side over the two legs and fully deserved to win this competition.

"When they qualified for the Gold Cup they were always going to be the favourites and full credit to them."

Adam Ellis eased his way to double-figures one final time in Birmingham colours, only being denied another full maximum after blowing his engine whilst leading the opening heat. He also broke the Arlington track record as he showed his National League superiority once again.

Captain Tom Perry impressed with some classy rides on one of his least favourite circuits.

Danny Ayres gave it his all once again on another mixed night for the Kent racer.

Jack Smith's gating was a particular highlight yet again and his effort cannot be faulted, especially after pushing his machine home for a point for almost a whole lap in his one outing.

Adam Kirby picked up four-points as he claimed the tag of Birmingham's only ever present rider in 2015.

Eastbourne 52: Richard Andrews 12+3, Bradley Wilson-Dean 11+1, Ben Hopwood 9, Marc Owen 8+1, Daniel Spiller 8, Kelsey Dugard 4+3, Georgie Wood 0.

Birmingham 37: Adam Ellis 12, Tom Perry 10, Danny Ayres 6, Jack Smith 4+1, Adam Kirby 4, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 1+1, Sam Chapman r/r.

Eastbourne win 99-80 on aggregate.

Sam warning to players from Pulis

TONY Pulis will warn his players to beware the Sam Allardyce effect and believes the new Sunderland boss will have the Black Cats firing at The Hawthorns on Saturday.

Sunderland are 19th, and without a win this season as Dudley-born Allardyce was officially unveiled as their new manager this week, and he now has just a few days to turn his team into one that can trouble Albion – and Pulis doesn't doubt that he will.

"I know Sam well," said the Baggies manager.

"I don't think he gets the credit he deserves.

"He did a smashing job at West Ham and you know his teams are always well drilled and well organised.

"People forget that when they got relegated, he got them promoted in the first year and they kicked on from there.

"He laid down the groundwork for the next manager who is reaping the rewards."

Although the appointment is undoubtedly good news for fans of the red and white, it couldn't have come at a worse time for those following blue and white stripes.

Performance

In dire need of a win, and perhaps more importantly, a performance with some attacking intent, what looked like a less taxing return to Premier League action after the international break just got a lot harder. Big Sam doesn't have a lot of time to work with his players, but then neither does Albion chief Pulis.

This week is the first time this week Pulis has seen the majority of his team, and some players are not returning until today or tomorrow.

Allardyce, who started his managerial career at The Hawthorns with a spell as Brian Talbot's assistant, has a mouthwatering derby against his old club, Newcastle, next.

Coupe de grass in bowls final

From left, Paul Greene, chairman, Simon Coupe and Matt Taylor, All Aspects MD

2015 All Aspects George Masters

SIMON Coupe travelled from Lancashire and returned home with the £1,000 winner's cheque in his pocket after beating Anthony Bracken in the final.

At the George Bowling Club Coupe started the day with a 31-29 win against Paul Rolls in a game that could have gone either way up until the last end, while Bracken defeated Gordon Hawkins 31-18. In the quarter finals Coupe beat ex-Masters winner Craig Barker 31-19 with Bracken beating Yorkshire's Neil Simpson 31-24.

Coupe hit top gear in his semi-final to take out Jon Palmer 31-8 and Bracken overcame Greg Smith 31-22. The final was a close affair but Coupe managed to up his game to be the 31-25 winner.

Hitman's protege steals the limelight

WEDNESBURY'S Sam Evans stole the show at Walsall Football Club by scoring the fight night's only TKO with boxing legend Ricky Hatton in his corner, *writes Craig Birch*.

'The Hitman' has brought the Black Country teenager into the pro game and the effects of his coaching was clear to see on Saturday night's paid bow.

Hatton won British, WBF, IBO AND IBF world titles in the light welterweight division where Evans will campaign.

And the 19-year-old is off to a flying start, after forcing the finish against Latvian Zaurs Sadihovs in the third of a four-round contest.

Evans was measured in the first and started to land freely come the second, seizing the opportunity to land a right hook to the ribcage as they tangled at close quarters.

He listened to instructions from Hatton to step it up in the third, with Sadihovs hurt and getting on his bike when referee Kevin Parker stepped in.

Evans looked Hatton-esque with the right hand to the body landing at will, with Sadihovs pulled out for throwing nothing back. It was exactly halfway through the round.

Hatton had two other fighters on the show, with Market Harborough's Reuben Arrowsmith also debuting against Kevin McCauley.

Arrowsmith dropped a share of a round against the former Midlands welterweight champion, who lives in Stourbridge, in winning 40-37 on points with Parker after four.

It came after three straight points landslides starting with Stoke's Andy Keates, returning to where he won the Midlands light welterweight title from Bloxwich's Luke Paddock last month.

·VAN BUSTER·

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Sport

Big Dave has the academy answer
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Gill four-ce wind blows away Tipton

Smethwick 6 Tipton 0

TIPTON Town's dismal early season form suffered another huge setback with a 6-0 West Midlands Premier defeat at Smethwick.

The home side, clearly more senior in stature, took an early grip when Rohan Gill powered home a bullet-like header in the fifth minute.

Gill repeated the dose three minutes later for 2-0.

Tipton rallied through Ravi Sangha and Chris Horton but on 23 minutes Smethwick scored again, Colin Smith leaving Town keeper Josh Morgan helpless.

Gill completed his hat-trick four minutes later and although Gregg Grey went close for the visitors after Jordan McGovern played him in, Smith's second goal made it 5-0 at the interval.

Tipton fared better after the break, Robbie Duffield taking the challenge to the home side, but the game was already lost.

But Gill completed his sparkling afternoon by smashing home his fourth goal two minutes from time.

Meanwhile, Halesowen's run of three games unbeaten came to an end with a miserable 6-0 defeat in Leicestershire which also saw them finish with 10 men.

The red card occurred on only eight minutes when Jay Denny walked for apparently stamping on Callum Woodward, with Danny Bragoli and Barwell's Nigel Julien also booked for their part in the incident.

Four minutes later, former Yeltz hero Iyseden Christie lobbed Daniel Platt from 18 yards to put Barwell one up.

Despite Halesowen putting some pressure on and going close twice, Barwell made it two on 27 minutes.

Jamie tumbles out of darts Masters in quarter finals

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes surrendered a lead and tumbled out of the BDO World Masters at the quarter-final stage.

Hughes took the first set but back came Swiss thrower Thomas Junghans to win 3-1 and end his dreams of glory, writes Craig Birch.

Junghans went onto face Glen Durrant, Hughes' close friend and conqueror in his World Championship debut this year.

The Black Country darter and BDO World No 2 couldn't replicate last year's Masters run to the final, where he lost to Martin Phillips.

The 29-year-old did see the last day of play at Hull City Hall, though, in the competition which has been broadcast on Euro Sport.

It was Hughes who had to come from behind in Saturday afternoon's last 16 clash with Darius Labanauskas.

The Lithuanian led and missed darts to make it 2-0, with Hughes taking advantage to reel off three sets in succession and nudge home 3-0.

'Yozza' opened in style on Friday, whitewashing Allan Edwards 3-0 without dropping a leg.

Wright's lucky punt saves points

Tividale FC 1 Basford United FC 1

Football

THE first half on chances was won by Basford.

Tividale produced their best move of the half on 16 minutes when after some great link up play between Jason Chilton and Ashley Jackson down the left flank it ended with striker Mark Dank's volleying over Chilton's cross at the near post.

Basford deserverdly took the lead when Courey Grantham unmarked at the back post swept home a cross from right back David Baofo.

Going behind spurred the home side and on 27 minutes Tividale 's Richard Gregory tried a difficult scissor kick from a Sam Adkins cross that cleared the bar. Basford ended the half on a high with two efforts off target from Jermaine Hollis.

On 65 minutes Tividale had the break of luck that they possibly needed when from nowhere, full back Lewis Wright tried a long-range punt that caught Deeney off his line and the ball sailed over him and into the net.

Tividale 0 Goole 1

It was another frustrating afternoon at The Beeches for Tividale supporters.

If somehow you were to watch Tividale games and not know the results. You would find it difficult to believe the points total in comparison to their performances at the moment. Yes at times this season Tividale's fledgling squad has been outplayed and ended with what they deserved. But there have been times like today when they have certainly not.

An unfortunate 18th-minute penalty proved the difference in the Evo-Stik Division One South fixture Although the visitors had the majority of the possession in the opening exchanges, there was not a lot happening regarding goal mouth action. Goole did have the first effort on 9 minutes when Jacob Stannard tried a long range effort .

MISERY GOES ON FOR SQUAD

Wednesbury 5 Cleobury Mortimer 34

WEDNESBURY'S poor run of form continued this week against opponents Cleobury Mortimer making their fourth loss of this campaign.

The home side competed in the scrums and lineout but lost it in the rucks and mauls continually giving up the ball.

Their kicking was poor as was their decision making, Dale Doughty made some bull-like runs and Dan Blake made a lot of ground with his running.

Cleobury were always on top and their breakthrough came on 20 minutes getting their first converted try.

Within two minutes they doubled their score with another. Wednesbury kept pushing for their breakthrough but their hopes were dashed a couple of times having gone over for tries the ref said the ball had been held up.

Successfully

On 30 minutes Cleobury ran in their third try and conversion. From kick off the visitors were awarded a penalty which they successfully converted.

With just a minute of the half remaining Wednesbury's efforts paid off, Luke Pittaway won the ball and drove over for the try, no conversion. The second half started with a bang-Cleobury were awarded a penalty which was successfully converted.

Wednesbury started to get back into the game putting Cleobury under pressure but they were unable to break down the visitor's defence.

The Allwood twins did sterling work in attack and defence but to no avail. Cleobury killed the game off on 70minutes with their fourth converted try, Wednesbury had no answer to the visitors stout defence.

The coaching team awarded the man of the match to scrum half Marcus Taylor.

Wednesbury 2nds also came undone losing away at Wheaton Aston 24-12.

With a free week next weekend Wednesbury will try and arrange a friendly game.

Marcus Taylor putting into the scrum during the game against Cleobury Mortimer

Rodgers in the wings should Villa oust boss

AXED Liverpool boss, Brendan Rodgers, could be in for a swift return to the Premier League as Villa's new manager should Tim Sherwood fail to turn around his club's fortunes, according to reports.

Picking up one point in seven games has reportedly left Sherwood on the brink, with the next two games crucial to his survival.

The former Tottenham boss was appointed by the Villa Park hierarchy in February and guided the Villans away from the relegation zone and to the FA Cup final.

However, since the loss of star striker Christian Benteke to Liverpool and skipper Fabian Delph to Manchester City in the summer, Villa's new-look squad have managed to win just one of their opening eight Premier League fixtures

Rodgers was sacked after Liverpool's draw with Everton before Jurgen Klopp was brought in to replace him.

Goals glut in last minutes of the game

Team Dudley 2 Worcs Raiders 5

FIVE of the seven goals came in a frantic final 12 minutes as Team Dudley were beaten by the bottom side in West Midlands Division One.

TD had a full squad for the first time since the last game at The Dell with Ryan Passey arriving back from work commitments to slot in at centre half.

An injury to Alex Pinches in college football saw him rested to the bench meaning Jahmal Patterson started at left back. The game started with two sides low on confidence struggling to find an opening.

But Dudley went ahead on 26 minutes when Nathan Jones' free-kick to the near post left the Raiders keeper a spectator.

Myles Nettleford went close for the home side, his header from a James Messenger cross flying just over the bar.

Matty Andrews for Worcester then forced a save from Liam Jones low down as Raiders tried to find a foothold in the match.

But four minutes before the break, Worcester levelled when Matty Andrews got behind the defence and sent a clever, controlled volley over Liam Jones and into the top corner. There was still time before the interval for the visitors' Nick MacPherson to hit a post.

Worcester went ahead 12 minutes from time, Anthony Smith's free-kick going over the wall and into the bottom corner. MacPherson added a third three minutes later and then made the game safe at 4-1.

Dudley debutant Matthew Cahalane tapped in after Jones' drive was saved, but deep into injury time Worcester bagged their fifth. Alex Trigg scored low down in the corner from 12 yards.

Olsson happy for team mates trio

ALBION defender Jonas Olsson knows exactly how the club's Northern Irish trio will be feeling as they cemented their place in next year's European Championships.

Olsson was in the Swedish squad that went to Euro 2012 in Poland and Ukraine, was delighted for team-mates Jonny Evans, Chris Brunt and Gareth McAuley who helped the Ulstermen progress.

He said: "They've been flying through qualification, it was really just a matter of when they could secure it."

"I'm happy for them, they've got a lot to look forward to in the summer.

"It's what you dream of when you start playing football."

★★★

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